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ALBACORE FISHERIES, TRADE, AND MARKET OF JAPAN

Sunee C. Sonu

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Region**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fisheries for albacore, *Thunnus alalunga*, continue to be important throughout the world, with a total catch of more than 200,000 metric tons (mt) per year since 1996. Of more than 49 nations that reported albacore landings in 2003, four countries accounted for the majority of the catch with Japan ranked highest with 30 percent of the total. Taiwan, the world's largest producer during 1983 and 1985-1993, was second with 22 percent. The United States and Spain respectively harvested 8 and 6 percent of the world total.

Between 48 and 65 percent of world catches of albacore from 1983 through 2003 occurred in the Pacific Ocean, followed by the Atlantic Ocean (29 to 39 percent) and the Indian Ocean (7 to 18 percent). While more than 23 nations that reported Pacific albacore landings in 2003, Japan accounted for the majority of the catches of Pacific albacore -approximately 46 percent in 2003. The United States and Taiwan each landed about 12 percent of the total catch. Most of the Pacific catch of albacore, between 35 and 65 percent from 1983 through 2003, occurred in the northwestern sector. Japan harvested about 99 percent of the total northwest Pacific catch in 2003.

Japan is the world's largest market for albacore, utilizing an average of 80,000 mt during 1998-2004. Supply for this market comes from both domestic catch and imports. The share of the Japanese market for albacore supplied by imports increased from 2 percent in 2002 to 8 percent in 2004. In 2004, imports were worth \$24 million. Frozen products dominated, representing 94 percent in volume and 91 percent in value in 2004. Japanese imports of frozen albacore from the United States in 2004 were 1,916 mt valued at \$6.8 million, an increase of five times in quantity and eight times in value over 2003 imports.

Factors which influenced the recent rise in albacore imports to Japan are: decreasing catches by Japan's own fishing fleet, increasing demand for gourmet food, and the appreciation of the Japanese yen relative to U.S. dollar.

Japan regulates imports of albacore products with import tariffs. As the United States and Japan are signatories to the World Trade Organization (WTO), WTO tariffs apply to U.S. exports of albacore products.

Albacore is sold through auctions at consumer wholesale markets located in consumption areas, and at production wholesale markets located at Japanese ports of landings. Albacore is also sold directly to processors and supermarket chains. Between 1999 and 2004, the wholesale prices at major markets for both fresh and frozen albacore showed fluctuations which were influenced mainly by volume of supply, usually, the lower the supply, the higher the price, and vice versa.

INTRODUCTION

Japan, the world's largest harvester as well as consumer of albacore, relies mainly on landings by her own fleet. Recently, however, decreasing domestic catches have forced Japan to increase imports of albacore.

Frozen albacore from the United States has found a market niche in Japan. In 2004, Japan imported \$6.8 million of frozen albacore from the United States. Presently, the United States is the second largest supplier of frozen albacore to Japan.

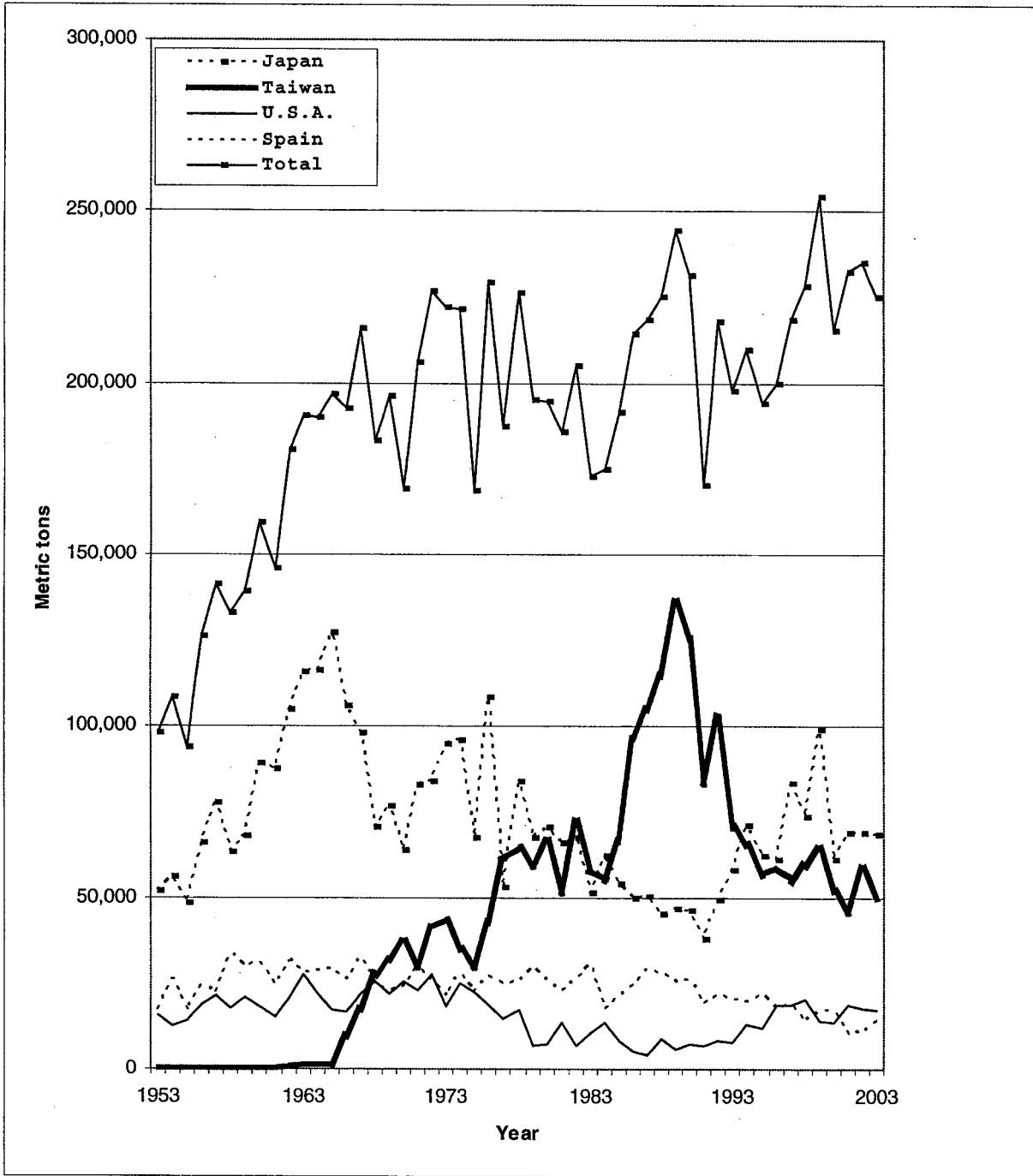
Japan is the most important export market for U.S. albacore, accounting for 45 percent in volume and 52 percent of U.S. exports of albacore in January-June 2005 (U.S. Department of Commerce 2005).

This report provides detailed examination of the world albacore fisheries, as well as Japan's fishery, imports, exports, supply, demand, and market.

WORLD ALBACORE FISHERIES

The total world catch of albacore more than doubled from 98 thousand metric tons (mt) in 1953 to over 225 thousand mt in 2003 (Figure 1). Total catch of albacore by all nations reached a high of 255,000 mt in 1999, with Japan landing 39 percent of the fish (Table 1 and Figure 1). Of more than 49 nations that reported albacore landings in 2003, four countries accounted for the majority of the catch with Japan ranked highest with 30 percent of the total. Taiwan, the world's largest producer during 1983 and 1985-1993, was second with 22 percent (Table 1 and Figure 1). The United States and Spain respectively harvested 8 and 6 percent of the world total (Table 1, Figure 1).

The global increase in albacore landings during recent years has been due to increased catches by countries other than these four major harvesting countries. Countries with substantial increases in albacore landings from 1998 to 2003 are China, Italy, Fiji Islands, American Samoa, Namibia, Indonesia, and Canada. Combined albacore landings by these seven countries rose from 7,258 mt in 1998 to 33,423 mt in 2003, more than a four-time increase over this period.



Source: FAO 2005

Figure 1. Annual landings of albacore by major countries, 1953-2003 (metric tons).

Table 1. World albacore catch, 1983-2003 (metric tons).

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Japan	51,627	62,164	54,137	49,927	50,333	45,243	46,616
Taiwan	57,518	54,995	66,400	96,331	104,879	114,930	135,855
U.S.A.	10,513	13,711	8,205	5,251	4,324	8,644	5,491
Spain	30,387	17,520	21,502	24,587	29,017	27,810	25,424
China	-*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Italy	700	1,942	3,348	3,208	3,433	3,529	3,529
Fiji Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
New Zealand	744	2,773	3,253	1,911	1,265	672	4,884
France	2,763	3,201	2,625	1,426	2,316	3,037	4,087
American Samoa	**	.	.	.	.	1	.
French Polynesia	.	.	.	.	.	.	102
South Africa	2,760	3,540	6,697	5,930	7,275	6,570	6,890
Namibia	.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brazil	737	732	386	524	399	421	435
Indonesia	246	314	323	56	287	336	424
Canada	242	47	25	2	42	341	396
Samoa	2,040	1,800	1,478	1,290	1,250	1,020	735
Vanuatu	500	400	1,012	691	645	580	510
Korea, Rep. of	8,803	8,339	17,661	19,550	9,353	7,647	5,589
Saint Vincent /Grenadines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cook Islands	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Seychelles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Caledonia	12	112	131	179	563	584	566
Portugal	1,778	1,533	2,014	1,527	1,332	1,337	726
Greece	-	-	-	484	500	500	500
Papua New Guinea	.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ireland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tonga	143	135	174	206	252	242	195
Australia	13	28	4	-	130	107	123
Venezuela	823	1,076	467	172	26	137	41
Réunion	14	14	11	12	13	16	15
Solomon Islands	19	19	12	.	.	.	.
Morocco	-	-	-	-	41	-	-
Grenada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mauritius	-	-	-	-	45	41	56
Cyprus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mexico	33	113	49	3	7	15	2
Uruguay	373	526	1,531	262	178	100	83
Philippines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syrian Arab Rep.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saint Lucia	-	-	-	-	1	<0.5	<0.5
Barbados	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chile	2	24	170	149	3	-	90
Saint Helena	7	9	-	-	2	1	1
Bermuda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Micronesia, Fed. States of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nauru	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Others	572	3,020	934	1,946	2,168	2,009	1,365
Total	173,371	178,087	192,549	215,624	220,079	225,870	244,733

**Table 1 (continued). World albacore catch, 1983-2003
(metric tons).**

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Japan	46,105	37,664	49,246	58,266	70,890	62,543	61,059
Taiwan	125,594	83,413	102,921	70,347	65,471	56,467	58,408
U.S.A.	7,511	6,590	8,388	7,903	12,779	11,855	18,669
Spain	26,021	19,126	21,802	20,357	19,820	21,690	17,737
China	4	<0.5	<0.5	1	22	13	28
Italy	1,191	1,191	1,464	1,275	1,107	1,109	1,769
Fiji Islands	68	208	243	463	842	702	1,446
New Zealand	3,011	2,615	3,794	3,613	6,352	6,423	7,150
France	3,456	5,188	8,786	7,231	6,378	5,739	5,275
American Samoa	.	1	.	<0.5	1	27	86
French Polynesia	319	426	267	959	913	1,100	1,750
South Africa	5,305	3,411	6,360	6,883	6,932	5,216	5,634
Namibia	-	-	2,241	3,524	3,075	1,861	1,521
Brazil	514	1,113	2,710	3,613	1,227	923	819
Indonesia	370	305	509	440	604	684	1,300
Canada	541	384	748	795	856	1,038	617
Samoa	223	211	922	213	641	1,883	1,775
Vanuatu	450	380	310	240	180	109	192
Korea, Rep. of	3,695	1,801	222	105	109	74	716
Saint Vincent /Grenadines	-	-	-	2	<0.5	<0.5	-
Cook Islands	.	.	.	.	23	32	5
Seychelles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Caledonia	1,053	909	692	755	840	332	414
Portugal	3,917	790	1,822	3,868	2,159	7,125	2,128
Greece	500	500	500	1	1	<0.5	952
Papua New Guinea	-	-	-	-	-	6	38
Ireland	40	60	451	1,946	2,534	918	874
Tonga	152	171	199	231	343	379	431
Australia	51	310	253	329	478	428	472
Venezuela	95	319	205	246	282	279	315
Réunion	15	41	55	120	175	163	347
Solomon Islands	.	.	.	.	.	24	100
Morocco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grenada	-	-	-	<0.5	<0.5	2	1
Mauritius	28	20	2	2	2	2	2
Cyprus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mexico	2	2	10	11	6	5	21
Uruguay	55	34	31	28	16	49	75
Philippines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syrian Arab Rep.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	4	-	247	.	.	.	.
Saint Lucia	<0.5	<0.5	1	1	<0.5	1	1
Barbados	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chile	306	170	18	19	22	15	21
Saint Helena	1	5	28	38	5	82	47
Bermuda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Micronesia, Fed. States of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nauru	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Others	1,545	3,398	3,534	4,852	5,990	5,227	8,127
Total	232,142	170,756	218,981	198,677	211,075	194,525	200,322

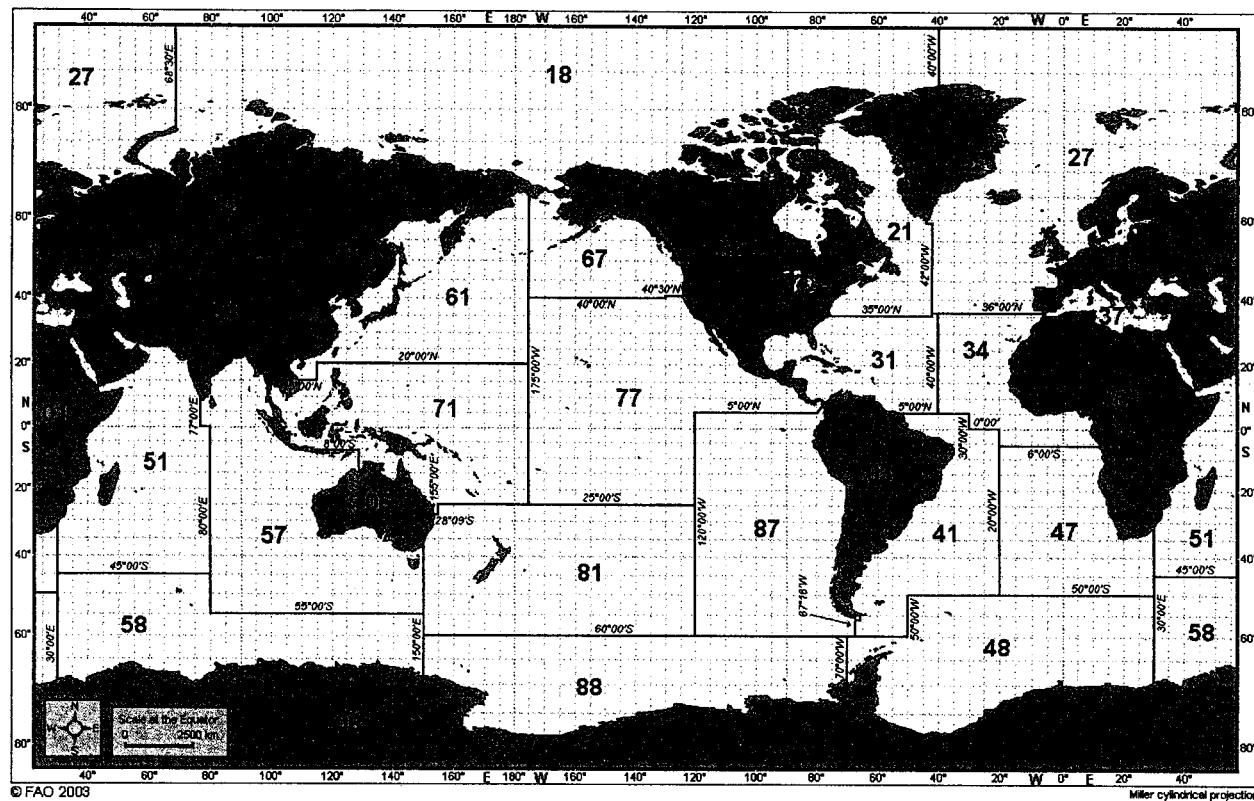
Table 1 (continued). World albacore catch, 1983-2003
(metric tons).

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Japan	83,592	73,756	99,027	61,249	69,196	68,888	68,254
Taiwan	55,205	59,868	64,302	51,668	45,458	58,526	49,936
U.S.A.	18,907	20,273	14,093	13,504	18,647	17,588	17,278
Spain	18,961	13,877	16,950	16,932	10,519	10,650	13,877
China	2	1	3,722	3,403	4,968	4,514	7,350
Italy	1,426	1,472	2,561	3,630	2,882	4,071	6,973
Fiji Islands	1,842	2,121	2,279	6,065	7,971	8,026	6,881
New Zealand	3,614	6,525	3,903	4,500	5,353	5,645	6,744
France	5,200	4,216	7,356	6,392	7,007	4,502	4,312
American Samoa	309	446	338	624	3,253	5,944	3,925
French Polynesia	2,717	3,235	2,642	3,580	4,432	4,678	3,846
South Africa	6,708	8,419	5,102	3,636	7,257	6,574	3,543
Namibia	1,199	1,429	1,162	2,418	3,419	2,962	3,275
Brazil	652	3,418	1,872	4,414	6,862	3,228	2,647
Indonesia	1,561	1,461	1,707	2,659	2,865	2,628	2,628
Canada	260	328	600	3,008	3,318	3,752	2,391
Samoa	4,108	4,742	4,027	4,067	4,820	4,223	2,253
Vanuatu	95	10	.	.	.	513	1,823
Korea, Rep. of	1,944	3,998	1,179	684	1,920	2,488	1,795
Saint Vincent /Grenadines	-	-	1	2,820	5,662	345	1,555
Cook Islands	5	5	5	5	2	879	1,457
Seychelles	-	183	67	423	873	1,238	1,329
New Caledonia	277	860	690	895	1,020	1,165	1,111
Portugal	651	215	556	764	1,217	2,387	968
Greece	741	1,152	2,005	1,786	1,840	1,352	950
Papua New Guinea	101	104	129	159	123	136	857
Ireland	1,913	3,750	4,858	3,464	2,093	1,324	755
Tonga	493	616	801	862	1,268	1,189	611
Australia	340	444	435	387	532	749	597
Venezuela	49	107	91	1,374	349	162	424
Réunion	306	318	357	579	706	368	364
Solomon Islands	109	370	136	224	54	127	122
Morocco	-	-	-	-	-	55	81
Grenada	6	7	6	12	21	23	46
Mauritius	7	15	12	.	18	8	32
Cyprus	-	-	-	6	-	12	30
Mexico	53	8	32	159	40	68	27
Uruguay	56	110	69	90	135	111	27
Philippines	-	506	198	101	68	-	15
Syrian Arab Rep.	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Thailand	-	-	-	12	14	14	14
Trinidad and Tobago	2	1	1	2	11	9	12
Saint Lucia	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	1	3	2	10
Barbados	1	1	1	.	2	5	5
Chile	-	-	7	3	5	40	3
Saint Helena	18	1	1	58	12	2	3
Bermuda	1	.	2	2	2	1	1
Micronesia, Fed. States of	1	-	2	5	4	1	1
Nauru	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Others	5,294	11,263	11,557	9,230	6,345	4,059	4,026
Total	218,726	229,631	254,841	215,856	232,566	235,231	225,180

* zero; ** not available

Source: FAO 2005

Between 48 and 65 percent of world catches of albacore from 1983 through 2003 occurred in the Pacific Ocean, followed by the Atlantic Ocean (29 to 39 percent) and the Indian Ocean (7 to 18 percent; Table 2 and Figure 2). The Pacific catch has fluctuated between 96,000 mt and 153,000 mt since 1990. The Atlantic catch increased to 83,000 mt in 1989 but has since declined to 53,000 mt in 2003. Catches in the Indian Ocean have remained at low levels but at an upward trend after 2001.



Source: FAO 2005

Figure 2. Major fishing areas for FAO statistical purposes.

Table 2. Distribution of world albacore catch (by FAO fishing area), 1983-2003 (metric tons).

Area	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Atlantic Ocean:							
Eastern							
Central (34)*	4,931	4,222	3,524	2,666	1,139	1,199	303
Northeast (27)	35,481	22,253	24,805	27,453	30,565	30,449	30,081
Northwest (21)	3,353	3,831	5,531	4,594	1,492	1,956	443
Southeast (47)	9,957	10,501	21,529	24,041	19,567	19,106	16,008
Southwest (41)	3,835	4,387	8,198	7,299	8,350	9,460	33,429
Western							
Central (31)	8,708	9,291	8,252	7,910	2,311	2,893	2,718
Sub-total	66,265	54,485	71,839	73,963	63,424	65,063	82,982
Share (percent)							
Atlantic/total	38%	31%	37%	34%	29%	29%	34%
Indian Ocean:							
Eastern (51)	8,060	6,296	3,129	20,518	18,404	17,453	8,680
Western (57)	9,243	9,134	6,839	8,210	10,413	11,939	8,504
Mediterranean and Black Sea	1,235	3,414	4,129	3,712	3,993	4,063	4,060
Sub-total	18,538	18,844	14,097	32,440	32,810	33,455	21,244
Share (percent)							
Indian /total	11%	11%	7%	15%	15%	15%	9%
Pacific Ocean:							
Eastern							
Central (77)	20,970	31,301	34,849	33,885	24,478	26,042	14,462
Northeast (67)	3,443	3,123	5,096	4,220	2,758	5,807	3,384
Northwest (61)	36,301	44,405	37,110	40,033	61,252	58,768	59,076
Southeast (87)	723	642	417	518	639	588	1,399
Southwest (81)	8,752	9,786	9,708	7,622	8,897	11,690	23,698
Western							
Central (71)	18,379	15,501	19,433	22,943	25,821	24,457	38,488
Sub-total	88,568	104,758	106,613	109,221	123,845	127,352	140,507
Share (percent)							
Pacific/total	51%	59%	55%	51%	56%	56%	57%
Total	173,371	178,087	192,549	215,624	220,079	225,870	244,733

**Table 2 (continued). Distribution of world albacore catch
(by FAO fishing area), 1983-2003 (metric tons).**

Area*	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Atlantic Ocean:							
Eastern							
Central (34)	844	3,699	2,618	3,842	2,654	2,888	2,721
Northeast (27)	32,786	22,648	26,987	30,421	28,784	33,739	22,507
Northwest (21)	607	656	523	613	1,039	623	367
Southeast (47)	11,267	12,458	19,545	23,626	22,688	17,655	12,238
Southwest (41)	24,056	12,394	27,512	17,240	14,056	8,615	16,141
Western							
Central (31)	1,194	2,522	3,649	2,337	2,992	3,414	3,746
Sub-total	70,754	54,377	80,834	78,079	72,213	66,934	57,720
Share (percent)							
Atlantic /total	30%	32%	37%	39%	34%	34%	29%
Indian Ocean:							
Eastern (51)							
Central (51)	7,219	8,189	12,003	4,534	5,643	6,638	9,567
Western (57)	15,122	10,303	9,329	17,867	17,832	15,658	19,798
Mediterranean and Black Sea							
1,896	2,378	2,202	2,130	1,349	1,587	3,125	
Sub-total	24,237	20,870	23,534	24,531	24,824	23,883	32,490
Share (percent)							
Indian /total	10%	12%	11%	12%	12%	12%	16%
Pacific Ocean:							
Eastern							
Central (77)	13,199	13,395	18,255	14,649	16,534	15,943	19,283
Northeast (67)	3,063	2,058	4,754	5,373	8,877	6,671	10,038
Northwest (61)	89,166	56,333	34,803	33,252	40,175	38,126	51,026
Southeast (87)	1,549	1,141	855	2,099	1,774	978	796
Southwest (81)	14,844	14,562	44,197	22,580	13,716	14,411	18,723
Western							
Central (71)	15,330	8,020	11,749	18,114	32,962	27,579	10,246
Sub-total	137,151	95,509	114,613	96,067	114,038	103,708	110,112
Share (percent)							
Pacific /total	59%	56%	52%	48%	54%	53%	55%
Total	232,142	170,756	218,981	198,677	211,075	194,525	200,322

**Table 2 (continued). Distribution of world albacore catch
(by FAO fishing area), 1983-2003 (metric tons).**

Area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Atlantic Ocean:							
Eastern							
Central (34)	2,045	1,117	2,284	1,148	3,562	4,431	2,677
Northeast (27)	23,098	20,738	26,446	26,575	17,058	13,779	15,955
Northwest (21)	382	367	490	742	1,129	1,217	861
Southeast (47)	12,234	20,571	15,553	14,510	15,458	14,504	14,960
Southwest (41)	13,944	11,668	12,189	8,630	11,705	11,511	13,044
Western							
Central (31)	2,962	1,522	5,476	9,537	15,579	9,987	5,724
Sub-total	54,665	55,983	62,438	61,142	64,491	55,429	53,221
Share (percent)							
Atlantic /total	25%	24%	25%	28%	28%	24%	24%
Indian Ocean:							
Eastern (51)	8,109	8,562	8,725	6,498	5,003	5,341	8,096
Western (57)	18,516	29,941	29,986	19,410	15,113	15,360	15,576
Mediterranean and Black Sea	2,541	2,698	4,851	5,578	4,866	5,608	7,908
Sub-total	29,166	41,201	43,562	31,486	24,982	26,309	31,580
Share (percent)							
Indian /total	13%	18%	17%	15%	11%	11%	14%
Pacific Ocean:							
Eastern							
Central (77)	22,530	26,418	28,856	26,223	30,824	32,310	25,377
Northeast (67)	14,588	11,517	4,675	11,182	12,133	12,204	17,777
Northwest (61)	70,005	54,857	86,968	47,162	50,748	50,571	50,052
Southeast (87)	601	558	570	1,811	1,735	1,891	1,022
Southwest (81)	12,753	18,255	11,565	13,567	19,629	24,981	17,459
Western							
Central (71)	14,418	20,842	16,207	23,283	28,024	31,536	28,692
Sub-total	134,895	132,447	148,841	123,228	143,093	153,493	140,379
Share (percent)							
Pacific /total	62%	58%	58%	57%	62%	65%	62%
Total	218,726	229,631	254,841	215,856	232,566	235,231	225,180

* Numbers refer to FAO fishing area (see Figure 2)
Total share may not add due to rounding

Source: FAO 2005

While more than 23 nations that reported Pacific albacore landings in 2003, Japan accounted for the majority of the catches of Pacific albacore -approximately 46 percent in 2003 (Table 3). The United States and Taiwan each landed about 12 percent of the total catch. Taiwan's annual catch of Pacific albacore reached a high in 1989 at 78,000 mt but has since declined. China, Fiji Islands, and New Zealand each harvested about 5 percent of the total catch.

Most of the Pacific catch of albacore, between 35 and 65 percent from 1983 through 2003, occurred in the northwestern sector (FAO fishing area 61). The northwest Pacific catch increased from 36,000 mt in 1983 to 89,000 mt in 1990 (Table 4 and Figure 3). The catch then declined abruptly to about 33,000 mt in 1993. The catch recovered to 87,000 mt in 1999, then declined to a low of 47,000 mt in 2000. Since then the annual catch has remained fairly stable between 47,000 mt and 51,000 mt. Japan harvested about 99 percent of the total northwest Pacific catch in 2003.

Catches in the western Central Pacific (FAO fishing area 71), the second most productive area in the Pacific Ocean, made up 20 percent of the 2003 Pacific albacore catch. The catch reached a peak of 38,000 mt in 1989, then declined to a low of 8,000 mt in 1991 (Table 5 and Figure 3). The catch recovered to 32,000 mt in 2002. In 2003, Japan, Fiji Islands and China accounted for the majority of the catches of albacore in the western central Pacific - approximately 30 percent, 24 percent and 20 percent, respectively. Taiwan landed about 9 percent of the total catch.

The eastern Central Pacific (FAO fishing area 77) was the third largest albacore producing area in the Pacific Ocean with about 18 percent of the 2003 Pacific albacore catch. Catch of albacore in the eastern Central Pacific reached 35,000 mt in 1985 and then declined over the next several years (Table 6 and Figure 3). Annual catches gradually recovered to 32,000 mt in 2002. The catch in 2003 decreased 21 percent from 2002. Of 11 nations that reported albacore landings from this area in 2003, Taiwan ranked highest with 24 percent of the total. American Samoa and French Polynesia each landed 15 percent of the total catch.

Approximately 13 percent of the 2003 Pacific albacore catch was made in the northeast Pacific (FAO fishing area 67). Catch of albacore in the northeast Pacific reached 23,000 mt in 1974 and then declined to 2,000 mt in 1982 (Table 7 and Figure 3). The catch in 2003 recovered to 18,000. The United States harvested about 87 percent of the total northeast Pacific catch in 2003.

In 2003, albacore catches in the southwest Pacific (FAO

fishing area 81) accounted for 12 percent of the Pacific albacore harvest. Catch of albacore in the southwest Pacific reached a peak of 44,000 mt in 1992. Since then the catch has fluctuated between 12,000 mt and 25,000 mt (Table 8 and Figure 3). The catch in 2003 decreased 30 percent from 2002. Taiwan and New Zealand landed majority of the catches of albacore in this area - approximately 46 percent and 39 percent, respectively. Japan landed about 14 percent of the total catch.

Less than 1 percent of the 2003 Pacific albacore catch was made in the southeast Pacific (FAO fishing area 87). Japan and Taiwan accounted for the majority of the catches of albacore in the southeast Pacific -approximately 85 percent and 15 percent, respectively (Table 9 and Figure 3). Taiwan harvested about 80 percent of the total southeast Pacific catch in 2000.

**Table 3. Pacific albacore catches by country, 1953-2003
(metric tons).**

Year	Total	Japan	U.S.A.	Taiwan	China	Fiji Islands	New Zealand
1953	66,945	50,906	15,739	.	.	.	.
1954	65,712	53,166	12,246	.	.	.	.
1955	59,570	45,341	13,929	.	.	.	.
1956	79,976	60,725	18,751	100	.	.	.
1957	93,803	72,238	21,165	<0.5	.	.	.
1958	72,853	54,915	17,438	100	.	.	.
1959	75,884	54,190	20,994	200	.	.	.
1960	87,373	68,238	18,235	200	.	.	.
1961	78,751	63,259	14,892	100	.	.	.
1962	86,688	64,851	20,837	300	.	.	.
1963	102,114	73,241	27,573	800	.	.	.
1964	86,000	61,700	21,800	900	.	.	.
1965	92,880	70,500	16,880	1,200	.	.	.
1966	99,771	66,900	16,771	3,500	.	.	.
1967	113,832	70,300	21,927	5,500	.	.	5
1968	91,360	45,000	25,346	8,000	.	.	14
1969	98,823	55,600	21,823	8,000	.	.	.
1970	86,041	46,000	25,500	12,541	-	-	50
1971	116,637	70,000	22,600	7,627	-	-	200
1972	135,296	77,500	27,300	9,128	-	-	268
1973	136,816	91,100	18,100	8,528	-	-	484
1974	134,309	90,822	24,964	5,476	-	-	898
1975	104,254	64,369	22,217	7,100	-	-	646
1976	147,997	106,010	18,633	11,550	-	-	25
1977	103,888	51,776	14,373	23,051	-	-	621
1978	136,963	82,920	16,922	22,391	-	-	1,686
1979	104,364	65,542	6,993	17,613	-	-	814
1980	121,208	68,574	7,196	31,229	-	-	1,468
1981	112,742	61,860	13,252	15,595	-	-	2,085
1982	110,579	64,904	6,877	19,103	-	-	2,434
1983	88,568	48,544	10,491	18,345	-	-	744
1984	104,758	59,359	13,687	19,518	-	-	2,773
1985	106,613	50,142	8,189	25,542	-	-	3,253
1986	109,221	45,711	5,205	35,220	-	-	1,911
1987	123,845	46,949	4,262	59,851	-	-	1,265
1988	127,352	42,658	8,578	65,554	-	-	672
1989	140,507	44,161	5,396	78,421	-	3	4,884
1990	137,151	43,618	7,342	76,779	4	68	3,011
1991	95,509	35,232	6,376	46,679	<0.5	208	2,615
1992	114,613	46,486	8,190	52,314	<0.5	243	3,794
1993	96,067	56,051	7,652	24,745	1	463	3,613
1994	114,038	67,943	12,474	22,176	8	842	6,352
1995	103,708	59,712	11,527	19,931	5	702	6,423
1996	110,112	57,769	18,576	18,567	8	1,446	7,150
1997	134,895	79,537	18,744	20,505	2	1,842	3,614
1998	132,447	69,634	20,083	19,089	1	2,121	6,525
1999	148,841	95,717	13,916	18,627	3,473	2,279	3,903
2000	123,228	57,556	13,391	24,002	3,295	6,065	4,500
2001	143,093	64,749	18,518	21,067	4,863	7,971	5,353
2002	153,493	64,749	17,485	27,584	4,247	8,026	5,645
2003	140,380	64,749	17,233	16,971	7,138	6,881	6,744
Share of 2003 total		100%	46%	12%	12%	5%	5%

**Table 3 (continued). Pacific albacore catches by country,
1953-2003 (metric tons).**

Year	American Samoa	French Polynesia	Canada	Samoa	Vanuatu	Korea, Rep. of	Cook Islands
1953	.	.	<0.5	.	300	.	.
1954	.	.	-	.	300	.	.
1955	.	.	<0.5	.	300	.	.
1956	.	.	-	.	400	.	.
1957	.	.	<0.5	.	400	.	.
1958	.	.	<0.5	.	400	.	.
1959	.	.	100	.	400	.	.
1960	.	.	200	.	500	.	.
1961	.	.	<0.5	.	500	.	.
1962	.	.	200	.	500	.	.
1963	.	.	<0.5	.	500	.	.
1964	.	.	100	.	500	1,000	.
1965	.	.	200	.	600	3,500	.
1966	.	.	300	.	600	11,700	.
1967	.	.	600	.	600	14,900	.
1968	.	.	1,500	.	600	10,900	.
1969	.	.	1,800	.	600	11,000	.
1970	.	.	950	.	1,000	-	.
1971	.	.	2,310	.	1,000	12,900	.
1972	.	.	4,400	.	1,000	15,600	.
1973	.	.	1,600	.	1,000	16,000	.
1974	.	.	1,517	.	1,000	9,631	.
1975	.	.	126	.	1,000	8,795	.
1976	.	.	345	.	1,000	10,039	.
1977	.	.	53	.	1,006	12,039	.
1978	.	.	23	150	915	11,944	.
1979	.	.	289	600	789	11,688	.
1980	.	.	212	640	727	11,046	.
1981	.	.	103	1,360	500	17,941	.
1982	.	.	92	1,920	500	14,626	.
1983	.	.	242	2,040	500	7,453	.
1984	.	.	47	1,800	400	6,771	.
1985	.	.	25	1,478	1,012	16,436	.
1986	.	.	1	1,290	691	18,655	.
1987	.	.	21	1,250	645	8,646	.
1988	1	.	305	1,020	580	7,036	.
1989	.	102	342	735	510	5,007	.
1990	.	319	538	223	450	3,235	.
1991	1	426	378	211	380	1,538	.
1992	.	267	747	922	310	217	.
1993	<0.5	959	786	213	240	101	.
1994	1	913	824	641	180	96	23
1995	27	1,100	1,027	1,883	109	68	32
1996	86	1,750	593	1,775	192	702	5
1997	309	2,717	229	4,108	95	1,837	5
1998	446	3,235	304	4,742	10	3,876	5
1999	338	2,642	561	4,027	.	1,152	5
2000	624	3,580	2,886	4,067	.	589	5
2001	3,253	4,432	3,267	4,820	.	1,889	2
2002	5,944	4,678	3,639	4,223	513	2,478	879
2003	3,925	3,846	2,335	2,253	1,823	1,795	1,457
Share of 2003 total							
	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%

Table 3 (continued). Pacific albacore catches by country, 1953-2003 (metric tons).

Year	New Caledonia	Papua New Guinea	Tonga	Australia	Solomon Islands	Mexico	Chile	Others
1953	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1954	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1955	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1956	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1957	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1958	.	.	.	.	.	<0.5	.	.
1959	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1960	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1961	.	.	.	.	.	<0.5	.	.
1962	.	.	.	.	.	<0.5	.	.
1963	.	.	.	.	.	<0.5	.	.
1964	.	.	.	.	.	<0.5	.	.
1965	.	.	.	.	.	<0.5	.	.
1966	.	.	.	.	.	<0.5	.	.
1967	.	.	.	.	.	-	.	.
1968	.	.	.	.	.	-	.	.
1969	.	.	.	.	.	<0.5	.	.
1970	-	.	-	-	-	<0.5	.	-
1971	-	.	-	-	-	<0.5	.	-
1972	-	.	-	-	-	100	.	-
1973	-	.	-	-	4	<0.5	.	-
1974	-	.	-	-	-	1	.	-
1975	-	.	-	-	-	1	.	-
1976	-	.	-	-	6	36	353	-
1977	-	.	-	-	9	<0.5	960	-
1978	-	.	-	-	9	1	2	-
1979	-	.	-	-	21	1	14	-
1980	-	.	-	-	25	31	60	-
1981	-	.	-	-	2	8	36	-
1982	-	106	-	-	8	7	2	-
1983	12	143	-	-	19	33	2	-
1984	112	135	-	-	19	113	24	-
1985	131	174	-	-	12	49	170	-
1986	179	206	-	-	-	3	149	-
1987	563	252	129	-	-	7	3	2
1988	584	242	107	-	-	15	-	-
1989	566	195	93	-	-	2	90	-
1990	1,053	152	51	-	-	2	306	-
1991	909	171	213	-	-	2	170	-
1992	692	199	204	-	-	10	18	-
1993	755	231	226	-	-	11	19	2
1994	840	343	351	-	-	6	22	6
1995	332	6	379	401	24	5	15	-
1996	414	38	431	468	100	21	21	-
1997	277	101	493	317	109	53	-	2
1998	860	104	616	418	370	8	-	-
1999	690	129	801	404	136	32	7	4
2000	895	159	862	359	224	159	3	14
2001	1,020	123	1,268	395	54	40	5	8
2002	1,165	136	1,189	677	127	68	40	2
2003	1,111	857	611	494	122	27	3	6
Share of								
2003 total	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%

* not available

** zero

Source: FAO 2005

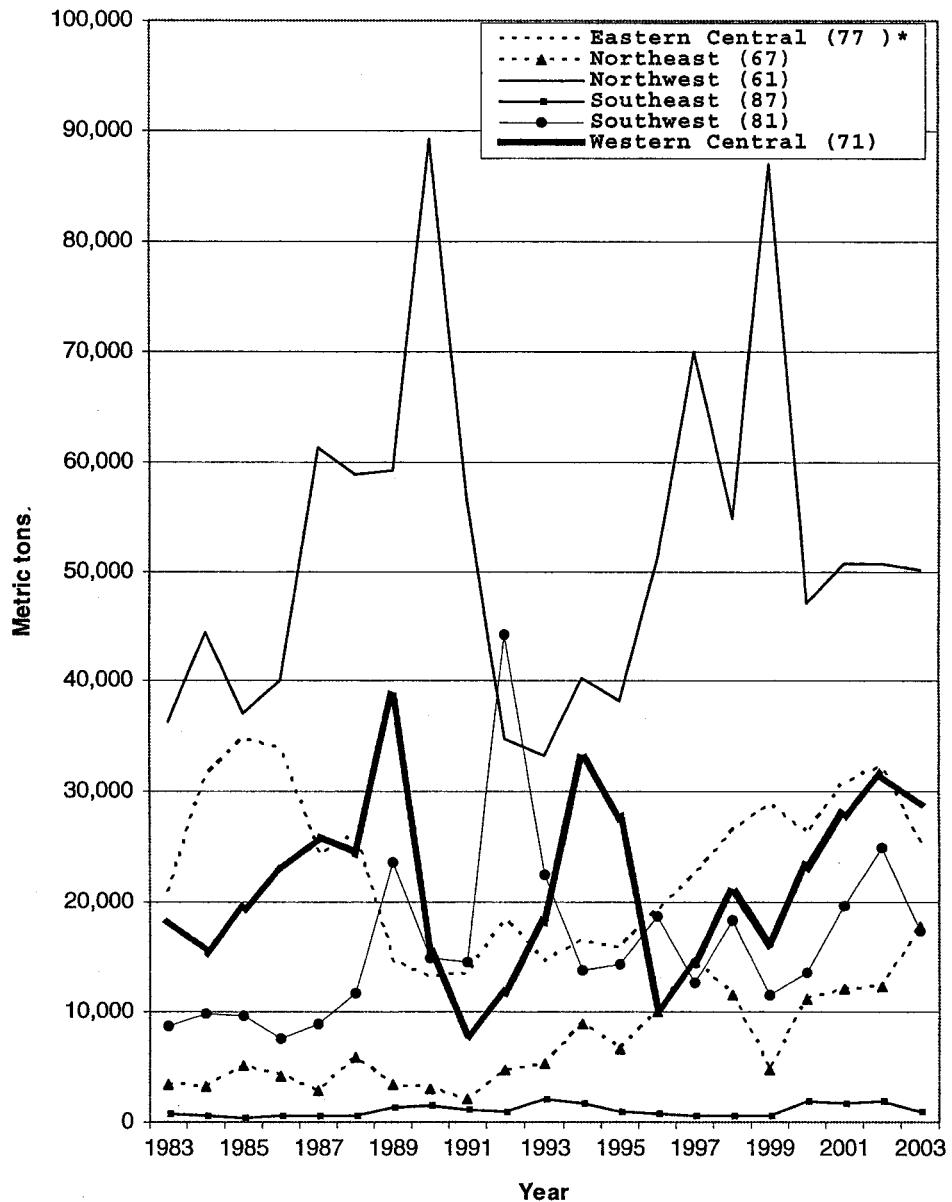
Table 4. Annual albacore catches by country in northwest Pacific Ocean (FAO fishing area 61), 1953-2003 (metric tons).

	Total	Japan	China	Taiwan	Korea Rep. of
1953	50,906	50,906	.*	.	.
1954	53,166	53,166	.	.	.
1955	45,341	45,341	.	.	.
1956	60,825	60,725	.	100	.
1957	72,238	72,238	.	<0.5	.
1958	55,015	54,915	.	100	.
1959	54,390	54,190	.	200	.
1960	68,438	68,238	.	200	.
1961	63,359	63,259	.	100	.
1962	65,151	64,851	.	300	.
1963	74,041	73,241	.	800	.
1964	41,000	40,100	.	900	.
1965	54,500	53,300	.	1,200	.
1966	46,600	45,100	.	1,500	.
1967	56,700	55,200	.	1,500	.
1968	38,500	36,500	.	2,000	.
1969	51,400	49,400	.	2,000	.
1970	33,741	32,200	- **	1,541	-
1971	64,491	62,700	-	1,791	-
1972	72,604	69,700	-	2,904	-
1973	82,228	82,000	-	228	-
1974	63,841	63,756	-	85	-
1975	47,724	47,421	-	255	48
1976	95,224	90,444	-	4,233	547
1977	41,835	41,476	-	359	-
1978	69,961	69,619	-	342	-
1979	57,786	57,642	-	144	-
1980	58,925	58,215	-	710	-
1981	48,217	47,977	-	240	-
1982	49,228	48,356	-	750	122
1983	36,301	34,173	-	896	1,232
1984	44,405	43,782	-	538	85
1985	37,110	30,846	-	6,264	-
1986	40,033	25,897	-	14,136	-
1987	61,252	26,912	-	34,340	-
1988	58,768	22,954	-	35,814	-
1989	59,076	24,051	-	35,014	11
1990	89,166	25,188	-	63,975	3
1991	56,333	20,862	-	35,464	7
1992	34,803	28,336	-	6,467	-
1993	33,252	33,011	-	241	-
1994	40,175	40,098	-	77	-
1995	38,126	33,857	-	4,269	-
1996	51,026	48,364	-	2,662	-
1997	70,005	66,487	-	3,518	-
1998	54,857	54,206	-	651	-
1999	86,968	85,662	-	1,306	-
2000	47,162	45,852	-	1,310	-
2001	50,748	49,507	528	713	-
2002	50,571	49,507	210	854	-
2003	50,052	49,507	396	149	-
Share of 2003 total	100%	99%	1%	<1%	-

* not available

-** zero

Source: FAO 2005



Source: FAO 2005

* Numbers refer to FAO fishing area (see Figure 2)

Figure 3. Annual catches of albacore in the Pacific Ocean by FAO fishing area, 1986-2003 (metric tons).

**Table 5. Annual albacore catches by country in western Central Pacific Ocean (FAO fishing area 71), 1953-2003
(metric tons).**

	Total	Japan	Fiji Islands	China	Taiwan	Vanuatu	New Caledonia
1953	300	.*	.	.	.	300	.
1954	300	.	.	.	.	300	.
1955	300	.	.	.	.	300	.
1956	400	.	.	.	.	400	.
1957	400	.	.	.	.	400	.
1958	400	.	.	.	.	400	.
1959	400	.	.	.	.	400	.
1960	500	.	.	.	.	500	.
1961	500	.	.	.	.	500	.
1962	500	.	.	.	.	500	.
1963	500	.	.	.	.	500	.
1964	500	.	.	.	.	500	.
1965	600	.	.	.	.	600	.
1966	2,600	.	.	.	2,000	600	.
1967	2,600	.	.	.	2,000	600	.
1968	3,600	.	.	.	3,000	600	.
1969	3,600	.	.	.	3,000	600	.
1970	12,500	8,500	**	-	3,000	1,000	-
1971	5,535	1,600	-	-	2,935	1,000	-
1972	4,817	2,000	-	-	1,817	1,000	-
1973	5,136	2,300	-	-	1,832	1,000	-
1974	23,908	22,416	-	-	492	1,000	-
1975	15,929	14,462	-	-	427	1,000	-
1976	11,827	9,424	-	-	543	1,000	-
1977	9,962	4,650	-	-	3,723	1,006	-
1978	14,038	6,755	-	-	5,588	915	-
1979	6,805	1,056	-	-	4,712	789	-
1980	12,086	3,161	-	-	7,632	727	-
1981	10,042	4,901	-	-	3,553	500	-
1982	20,576	7,181	-	-	12,680	500	-
1983	18,379	4,252	-	-	12,083	500	12
1984	15,501	3,248	-	-	11,155	400	112
1985	19,433	8,282	-	-	9,624	1,012	131
1986	22,943	9,772	-	-	11,913	691	179
1987	25,821	9,289	-	-	15,101	645	563
1988	24,457	4,824	-	-	18,290	580	584
1989	38,488	6,542	3	-	30,565	510	566
1990	15,330	7,021	68	4	6,343	450	1,053
1991	8,020	4,352	208	<0.5	2,158	380	909
1992	11,749	8,405	243	<0.5	2,084	310	692
1993	18,114	12,173	463	1	4,455	240	755
1994	32,962	19,144	842	8	11,943	180	840
1995	27,579	17,490	702	5	8,891	109	332
1996	10,246	2,124	1,446	8	5,810	192	414
1997	14,418	5,027	1,842	2	6,298	95	277
1998	20,842	6,481	2,121	1	5,095	10	860
1999	16,207	3,527	2,279	3,473	3,017	.	690
2000	23,283	7,926	6,065	2,056	5,784	.	895
2001	28,024	8,678	7,971	2,711	6,958	.	1,020
2002	31,536	8,678	8,026	2,710	9,148	513	1,165
2003	28,692	8,678	6,881	5,827	2,602	1,823	1,111
Share of 2003 total	100%	30%	24%	20%	9%	6%	4%

Table 5 (continued). Annual albacore catches by country in western Central Pacific Ocean (FAO fishing area 71), 1953-2003 (metric tons).

	Papua New Guinea	Korea, Rep. of	Australia	Solomon Islands	Micronesia	Nauru	Palau	U.S.A.
1953	*	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1954	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1955	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1956	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1957	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1958	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1959	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1960	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1961	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1962	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1963	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1964	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1965	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1966	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1967	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1968	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1969	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1970	.	- **	.	-	-	.	.	-
1971	.	-	.	-	-	.	.	-
1972	.	-	.	-	-	.	.	-
1973	.	-	.	4	-	.	.	-
1974	.	-	.	-	-	.	.	-
1975	.	40	.	-	-	.	.	-
1976	.	854	.	6	-	.	.	-
1977	.	574	.	9	-	.	.	-
1978	.	771	.	9	-	.	.	-
1979	.	227	.	21	-	.	.	-
1980	.	541	.	25	-	.	.	-
1981	.	1,086	.	2	-	.	.	-
1982	.	207	.	8	-	.	.	-
1983	.	509	.	19	-	.	.	1,004
1984	-	567	.	19	-	.	.	-
1985	-	365	.	12	-	.	.	7
1986	-	294	.	-	-	.	.	94
1987	-	167	.	-	-	.	.	56
1988	-	179	.	-	-	.	.	-
1989	-	302	.	-	-	.	.	-
1990	-	391	.	-	-	.	.	-
1991	-	13	.	-	-	.	.	-
1992	-	15	.	-	-	<0.5	.	-
1993	-	26	.	-	-	1	.	-
1994	-	-	.	-	-	3	2	-
1995	6	20	.	24	-	.	.	<0.5
1996	38	114	.	100	-	.	.	-
1997	101	666	.	109	1	.	<0.5	-
1998	104	690	.	370	-	.	.	5,110
1999	129	147	179	136	2	.	.	2,628
2000	159	20	147	224	5	.	2	-
2001	123	332	173	54	4	.	<0.5	-
2002	136	687	345	127	1	.	<0.5	-
2003	857	543	246	122	1	1	-	-
Share of								
2003 total		3%	2%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%

* not available

- ** zero

Source: FAO 2005

Table 6. Annual albacore catches by country in eastern Central Pacific Ocean (FAO fishing area 77), 1953-2003 (metric tons).

Year	Total	Taiwan	American Samoa	French Polynesia	Japan	Samoa	U.S.A.
1953	15,347	*	.	.	.	.	15,347
1954	11,842	.	.	.	.	.	11,842
1955	13,155	.	.	.	.	.	13,155
1956	16,808	.	.	.	.	.	16,808
1957	19,743	.	.	.	.	.	19,743
1958	12,332	.	.	.	.	.	12,332
1959	14,851	.	.	.	.	.	14,851
1960	15,927	.	.	.	.	.	15,927
1961	13,210	.	.	.	.	.	13,210
1962	16,612	.	.	.	.	.	16,612
1963	22,163	.	.	.	.	.	22,163
1964	23,101	.	.	3,800	.	.	19,301
1965	13,332	.	.	2,800	.	.	10,532
1966	10,451	.	.	2,200	.	.	8,251
1967	10,300	1,000	.	1,200	.	.	8,100
1968	11,039	1,500	.	2,700	.	.	6,839
1969	10,778	1,500	.	2,600	.	.	6,678
1970	15,200	1,300	.	2,900	.	.	11,000
1971	19,100	1,200	.	2,300	.	.	15,600
1972	15,900	2,900	.	3,800	.	.	9,100
1973	13,500	5,000	.	4,900	.	.	3,600
1974	10,816	3,699	.	3,194	.	.	3,922
1975	13,618	5,398	.	1,744	.	.	5,976
1976	22,552	5,859	.	4,809	.	.	10,388
1977	22,237	10,028	.	4,489	.	.	6,448
1978	23,182	8,693	.	4,934	150	8,101	
1979	19,822	7,954	.	5,821	600	4,697	
1980	19,299	7,640	.	5,582	640	4,504	
1981	23,776	6,261	.	7,198	1,360	7,136	
1982	18,154	1,000	.	6,770	1,920	5,451	
1983	20,970	1,295	.	7,384	2,040	6,801	
1984	31,301	4,736	.	8,294	1,800	12,436	
1985	34,849	6,473	.	5,670	1,478	6,069	
1986	33,885	6,149	.	5,821	1,290	2,525	
1987	24,478	6,980	.	6,168	1,250	1,766	
1988	26,042	7,680	1	9,201	1,020	1,843	
1989	14,462	3,115	.	102	5,589	735	1,039
1990	13,199	3,539	.	319	5,274	223	911
1991	13,395	3,994	1	426	6,700	211	505
1992	18,255	8,705	.	267	6,526	922	1,424
1993	14,649	5,003	<0.5	959	6,450	213	1,707
1994	16,534	6,093	1	913	4,839	641	3,579
1995	15,943	3,867	27	1,100	5,098	1,883	3,504
1996	19,283	4,454	86	1,750	4,401	1,775	5,772
1997	22,530	4,721	309	2,717	4,717	4,108	4,236
1998	26,418	5,409	446	3,235	5,187	4,742	3,593
1999	28,856	8,575	338	2,642	4,506	4,027	6,976
2000	26,223	6,837	624	3,580	2,372	4,067	5,909
2001	30,824	6,729	3,253	4,432	3,285	4,820	3,814
2002	32,310	6,675	5,944	4,678	3,285	4,223	2,251
2003	25,377	5,978	3,925	3,846	3,285	2,253	1,828
Share of 2003 total		100%	24%	15%	15%	13%	9%
							7%

Table 6 (continued). Annual albacore catches by country in eastern Central Pacific Ocean (FAO fishing area 77), 1953-2003 (metric tons).

Year	Cook Islands	Korea, Rep. of	China	Tonga	Mexico	Canada
1953	.	.	.	.	.	.
1954	.	.	.	.	.	.
1955	.	.	.	.	.	.
1956	.	.	.	.	.	.
1957	.	.	.	.	.	.
1958	.	.	.	.	<0.5	.
1959	.	.	.	.	.	.
1960	.	.	.	.	.	.
1961	.	.	.	.	<0.5	.
1962	.	.	.	.	<0.5	.
1963	.	.	.	.	<0.5	.
1964	.	.	.	.	<0.5	.
1965	.	.	.	.	<0.5	.
1966	.	.	.	.	<0.5	.
1967	.	.	.	.	-**	.
1968	.	.	.	.	-	.
1969	.	.	.	.	<0.5	.
1970	.	-	-	-	<0.5	50
1971	.	-	-	-	<0.5	10
1972	.	-	-	-	100	-
1973	.	-	-	-	<0.5	-
1974	.	-	-	-	1	-
1975	.	499	-	-	1	-
1976	.	1,460	-	-	36	10
1977	.	1,272	-	-	<0.5	-
1978	.	1,303	-	-	1	-
1979	.	749	-	-	1	-
1980	.	902	-	-	31	-
1981	.	1,813	-	-	8	-
1982	.	2,900	-	106	7	-
1983	.	3,274	-	143	33	-
1984	.	3,787	-	135	113	-
1985	.	14,936	-	174	49	-
1986	.	17,891	-	206	3	-
1987	.	8,055	-	252	7	-
1988	.	6,040	-	242	15	-
1989	.	3,685	-	195	2	-
1990	.	2,779	-	152	2	-
1991	.	1,385	-	171	2	-
1992	.	202	-	199	10	-
1993	.	75	-	231	11	-
1994	23	96	-	343	6	-
1995	32	48	-	379	5	-
1996	5	588	-	431	21	-
1997	5	1,171	-	493	53	-
1998	5	3,177	-	616	8	-
1999	5	954	-	801	32	-
2000	5	569	1,239	862	159	-
2001	2	1,557	1,624	1,268	40	-
2002	879	1,791	1,327	1,189	68	-
2003	1,457	1,252	915	611	27	-
Share of						
2003 total	6%	5%	4%	2%	<1%	-

* not available

** zero

Source: FAO 2005

Table 7. Annual albacore catches by country in northeast Pacific Ocean (FAO fishing area 67), 1953-2003 (metric tons).

Year	Total	U.S.A.	Canada	Taiwan	Japan	Korea, Rep. of
1953	392	392	<0.5	.*	.	.
1954	404	404	-	.	.	.
1955	774	774	<0.5	.	.	.
1956	1,943	1,943	-	.	.	.
1957	1,422	1,422	<0.5	.	.	.
1958	5,106	5,106	<0.5	.	.	.
1959	6,243	6,143	100	.	.	.
1960	2,508	2,308	200	.	.	.
1961	1,682	1,682	<0.5	.	.	.
1962	4,425	4,225	200	.	.	.
1963	5,410	5,410	<0.5	.	.	.
1964	2,599	2,499	100	.	.	.
1965	6,548	6,348	200	.	.	.
1966	8,820	8,520	300	.	.	.
1967	14,427	13,827	600	.	.	.
1968	20,007	18,507	1,500	.	.	.
1969	16,945	15,145	1,800	.	.	.
1970	15,400	14,500	900	-**	.	.
1971	9,300	7,000	2,300	-	.	.
1972	22,600	18,200	4,400	-	.	.
1973	16,100	14,500	1,600	-	.	.
1974	22,560	21,042	1,517	-	1	.
1975	16,370	16,241	126	-	3	.
1976	8,868	8,245	335	-	288	.
1977	7,978	7,925	53	-	.	.
1978	9,019	8,821	23	-	175	.
1979	2,623	2,296	289	-	38	.
1980	2,904	2,692	212	-	.	.
1981	6,415	6,116	103	-	196	.
1982	2,231	1,426	92	-	713	.
1983	3,443	2,686	242	-	515	.
1984	3,123	1,251	47	-	1,825	.
1985	5,096	2,113	25	-	2,958	.
1986	4,220	2,586	1	-	1,633	.
1987	2,758	1,677	21	-	1,060	.
1988	5,807	3,672	165	-	1,963	7
1989	3,384	1,402	180	-	1,802	.
1990	3,063	2,245	303	-	515	.
1991	2,058	1,354	143	-	561	.
1992	4,754	3,848	512	-	394	.
1993	5,373	4,822	551	-	-	.
1994	8,877	8,288	589	-	-	.
1995	6,671	5,853	792	26	-	.
1996	10,038	9,581	457	<0.5	-	.
1997	14,588	14,508	80	<0.5	-	.
1998	11,517	11,380	137	<0.5	-	.
1999	4,675	4,312	308	55	-	.
2000	11,182	7,482	2,535	1,165	-	.
2001	12,133	8,762	3,061	310	-	.
2002	12,204	8,499	3,495	210	-	.
2003	17,777	15,405	2,335	37	-	.
Share of 2003 total	100%	87%	13%	<1%	-	-
* not available	-** zero				Source: FAO 2005	

Table 8. Annual albacore catches by country in southwest Pacific Ocean (FAO fishing area 81), 1953-2003 (metric tons).

	Total	Taiwan	New Zealand	Japan	Australia	Canada	Korea, Rep. of	U.S.A.
1953	.*	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1954	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1955	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1956	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1957	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1958	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1959	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1960	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1961	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1962	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1963	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1964	17,800	.	.	16,800	.	.	1,000	.
1965	17,600	.	.	14,100	.	.	3,500	.
1966	30,200	.	.	18,500	.	.	11,700	.
1967	29,405	1,000	5	13,500	.	.	14,900	.
1968	17,914	1,500	14	5,500	.	.	10,900	.
1969	15,500	1,500	.	3,000	.	.	11,000	.
1970	8,750	6,700	50	2,000	- **	-	-	-
1971	17,901	1,701	200	3,100	-	-	12,900	-
1972	19,175	1,507	268	1,800	-	-	15,600	-
1973	19,452	1,468	484	1,500	-	-	16,000	-
1974	12,907	1,200	898	1,178	-	-	9,631	-
1975	10,458	1,020	646	584	-	-	8,208	-
1976	8,963	915	25	845	-	-	7,178	-
1977	20,117	8,941	621	375	-	-	10,180	-
1978	19,117	7,768	1,686	689	-	-	8,974	-
1979	16,209	4,803	814	730	-	-	9,862	-
1980	26,989	15,247	1,468	1,328	-	-	8,946	-
1981	23,330	5,541	2,085	1,210	-	-	14,494	-
1982	20,275	4,673	2,434	1,771	-	-	11,397	-
1983	8,752	4,071	744	1,799	-	-	2,138	-
1984	9,786	3,089	2,773	1,592	-	-	2,332	-
1985	9,708	3,181	3,253	2,139	-	-	1,135	-
1986	7,622	3,022	1,911	2,219	-	-	470	-
1987	8,897	3,430	1,265	2,886	129	-	424	763
1988	11,690	3,770	672	3,128	107	140	810	3,063
1989	23,698	8,736	4,884	5,859	93	162	1,009	2,955
1990	14,844	2,325	3,011	4,974	51	235	62	4,186
1991	14,562	4,949	2,615	1,900	213	235	133	4,517
1992	44,197	34,902	3,794	2,144	204	235	-	2,918
1993	22,580	14,624	3,613	2,759	226	235	-	1,123
1994	13,716	4,006	6,352	2,167	351	235	-	605
1995	14,411	2,875	6,423	2,307	401	235	-	2,170
1996	18,723	5,479	7,150	2,267	468	136	-	3,223
1997	12,753	5,797	3,614	2,876	317	149	-	-
1998	18,255	7,849	6,525	3,287	418	167	9	-
1999	11,565	5,619	3,903	1,565	225	253	-	-
2000	13,567	7,452	4,500	1,052	212	351	-	-
2001	19,629	5,491	5,353	2,415	222	206	-	5,942
2002	24,981	9,710	5,645	2,415	332	144	-	6,735
2003	17,459	8,052	6,744	2,415	248	-	-	-
	Share of 2003 total	100%	46%	39%	14%	1%	-	-
*	not available		-**	zero				

Source: FAO 2005

Table 9. Annual albacore catches by country in southeast Pacific Ocean (FAO fishing area 87), 1953-2003 (metric tons).

Total	Japan	Taiwan	Chile	Korea, Rep. of	Others
1953	.*	.	.	.	-**
1954	.	.	.	.	-
1955	.	.	.	.	-
1956	.	.	.	.	-
1957	.	.	.	.	-
1958	.	.	.	.	-
1959	.	.	.	.	-
1960	.	.	.	.	-
1961	.	.	.	.	-
1962	.	.	.	.	-
1963	.	.	.	.	-
1964	1,000	1,000	.	.	-
1965	300	300	.	.	-
1966	1,100	1,100	.	.	-
1967	400	400	.	.	-
1968	300	300	.	.	-
1969	600	600	.	.	-
1970	400	400	-	.	-
1971	300	300	-	.	-
1972	200	200	-	.	-
1973	400	400	-	.	-
1974	277	277	-	.	-
1975	155	155	-	.	-
1976	553	200	-	353	-
1977	1,759	786	-	960	13
1978	1,646	748	-	2	896
1979	1,119	255	-	14	850
1980	1,005	288	-	60	657
1981	962	378	-	36	548
1982	115	113	-	2	-
1983	723	421	-	2	300
1984	642	618	-	24	-
1985	417	247	-	170	-
1986	518	369	-	149	-
1987	639	634	-	3	-
1988	588	588	-	-	2
1989	1,399	318	991	90	-
1990	1,549	646	597	306	-
1991	1,141	857	114	170	-
1992	855	681	156	18	-
1993	2,099	1,658	422	19	-
1994	1,774	1,695	57	22	-
1995	978	960	3	15	-
1996	796	613	162	21	-
1997	601	430	171	-	-
1998	558	473	85	-	-
1999	570	457	55	7	51
2000	1,811	354	1,454	3	-
2001	1,735	864	866	5	-
2002	1,891	864	987	40	-
2003	1,022	864	153	3	2
Share of 2003 total	100%	85%	15%	<1%	<1%

* not available

** zero

Source: FAO 2005

JAPANESE FISHERY

The albacore fishery is a valuable fishery in Japan. In 2003, Japan's albacore landings were valued at \$163 million (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries 2005).

The Japanese catch of albacore peaked in 1965 at 127,000 mt and showed a decreasing trend to 1991 with exceptions in 1971-1974 and 1976 (Table 10 and Figure 1). Annual catches did peak again at 101,000 mt in 1999. Since then the catch has fluctuated between 66,000 and 90,000 mt, with an average of 72,000 mt. The catch in 2004 decreased 1 percent from 2003. The catch of albacore in 2004 represented 13 percent of the total catch of major tuna species.

Between 1996 and 2002, an average of 54 percent of albacore was caught by tuna longline, 41 percent by skipjack pole-and-line, 3 percent by purse seine, and the rest by other pole and line, other longline, set net, drift net, and gillnet (Table 11).

In 2002, about 54 percent of albacore was caught by skipjack pole-and-line, 41 percent by tuna longline, 4 percent by purse seine, and the rest by drift net, set net, and gillnet.

From 1996 to 2002, the catch by distant-water skipjack pole-and-line increased from 14,360 mt to 43,011 mt. The catch by distant-water tuna longline and purse seine also increased from 12,214 mt to 15,544 and 581 mt to 3,305 mt, respectively, during the same period.

Between 94 and 97 percent of Japanese catches of albacore from 1994 through 2003 occurred in the Pacific Ocean, followed by the Indian Ocean (2 to 5 percent) and the Atlantic Ocean (1 to 2 percent; Table 12). The total Pacific catch has fluctuated between 58,000 mt and 96,000 mt since 1994. Catches in the Indian Ocean increased from 1,487 mt in 1994 to 2,415 mt in 2003. From 1995 to 2003, catches of albacore rose sharply in the northwest Atlantic Ocean (FAO fishing area 21) and the increase just offset the decline which occurred in the southeast Atlantic Ocean (FAO fishing area 47).

**Table 10. Japan's tuna catch by major species, 1956-2004
(1,000 metric tons).**

Year	Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	Albacore	Bluefin	Total
1956	98	81	49	66	37	331
1957	97	100	60	78	34	369
1958	147	112	73	63	21	416
1959	167	126	74	68	51	486
1960	79	154	72	89	66	460
1961	144	148	114	88	70	564
1962	170	158	126	105	47	606
1963	113	131	130	116	63	553
1964	167	123	112	116	61	579
1965	136	124	110	127	56	553
1966	229	128	106	106	45	614
1967	182	94	106	98	55	535
1968	169	116	96	70	57	508
1969	182	90	100	78	53	503
1970	203	79	92	64	44	482
1971	172	71	89	88	48	468
1972	223	68	98	92	46	527
1973	322	76	105	95	49	647
1974	347	76	102	97	50	672
1975	259	72	113	69	41	554
1976	331	86	115	107	42	681
1977	309	83	128	54	52	626
1978	370	98	128	88	47	731
1979	330	100	130	67	44	671
1980	354	119	123	70	50	716
1981	289	110	111	64	58	632
1982	303	114	132	70	44	663
1983	353	112	139	52	37	693
1984	446	115	131	64	36	792
1985	315	134	149	58	30	686
1986	414	118	158	51	23	764
1987	331	115	141	47	25	659
1988	434	102	136	45	19	736
1989	338	100	117	45	20	620
1990	301	98	122	43	14	578
1991	397	108	125	38	16	684
1992	323	123	144	49	17	656
1993	345	127	140	60	17	689
1994	300	106	126	74	19	625
1995	309	112	116	64	17	618
1996	275	80	102	61	18	536
1997	314	112	108	84	18	636
1998	385	94	99	74	15	667
1999	287	97	99	101	24	608
2000	341	99	87	66	23	616
2001	277	102	90	70	17	556
2002	302	73	90	90	18	573
2003	322	79	83	68	16	568
2004	283	78	81	67	19	528

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries 1967, 1978, 1988, 1999, 2004, 2005.

**Table 11. Japan's albacore landings by fisheries, 1996-2002
(metric tons).**

Type of fishery	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Skipjack pole & line:							
Distant	14,360	24,948	15,815	42,968	20,375	27,365	43,011
Offshore	5,654	7,097	6,990	7,373	892	2,018	5,308
Coastal	258	205	148	128	304	65	146
Sub-total	20,272	32,250	22,953	50,469	21,571	29,448	48,465
Tuna longline:							
Distant	12,214	13,932	15,257	12,430	12,251	11,896	15,544
Offshore	8,355	9,666	9,450	8,364	10,040	9,299	17,780
Coastal	18,627	24,926	23,403	21,219	19,228	17,539	3,699
Sub-total	39,196	48,524	48,110	42,013	41,519	38,734	37,023
Purse seine	581	1,067	1,554	6,871	2,408	974	3,303
Drift net	116	358	206	284	67	116	331
Gillnet	0	1	0	5	0	1	1
Set net							
Large	22	24	18	71	98	55	67
Small	21	16	23	19	38	23	42
Other longline	53	52	57	25	51	17	59
Other pole & line	871	1,651	1,220	919	667	423	802
Others	18	17	17	9	13	11	11
Total	61,150	83,960	74,158	100,685	66,432	69,802	90,104

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries 1998-2004

Table 12. Japan's annual albacore catches (by FAO fishing area),
1953-2003 (metric tons).

Year	Atlantic Ocean					Indian Ocean	
	(34)*	(27)	(21)	(47)	(41)	(31)	(51)
1953	**	.	.	.	.	.	1,094
1954	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,659
1955	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,867
1956	.	.	.	.	<0.5	<0.5	3,466
1957	.	.	.	.	700	100	3,179
1958	.	.	.	.	1,100	900	2,618
1959	.	.	.	.	3,000	600	5,164
1960	.	.	.	.	8,700	1,100	5,190
1961	.	.	.	.	8,900	400	3,848
1962	700	.	.	8,400	8,000	5,000	3,955
1963	1,600	500	200	14,100	10,000	13,000	4,994
1964	1,600	1,300	1,000	20,800	7,900	9,400	3,900
1965	2,200	1,000	900	16,800	4,600	3,000	6,200
1966	600	500	300	6,100	1,800	3,300	3,100
1967	500	300	200	4,800	2,400	2,300	4,900
1968	3,900	1,600	100	800	4,500	3,000	6,900
1969	1,600	1,000	500	1,300	5,500	2,900	1,800
1970	1,500	100	300	2,800	900	3,400	2,300
1971	900	300	1,800	2,800	2,300	900	1,400
1972	500	<0.5	300	1,300	2,300	600	500
1973	500	<0.5	500	600	300	200	900
1974	919	61	761	668	27	60	1,739
1975	754	22	499	436	26	57	913
1976	310	3	985	467	-***	47	575
1977	41	2	749	260	7	36	248
1978	51	3	470	275	11	8	312
1979	35	2	1,146	311	1	38	240
1980	76	7	946	355	179	8	374
1981	100	36	1,566	485	368	41	1,101
1982	86	47	520	775	243	133	449
1983	92	32	1,030	602	33	31	539
1984	47	18	424	613	20	95	1,076
1985	118	14	655	635	274	83	1,516
1986	35	9	416	905	499	17	1,173
1987	19	25	402	747	235	50	1,034
1988	38	40	632	407	272	25	489
1989	113	111	298	514	178	254	631
1990	59	55	438	488	283	215	658
1991	53	100	441	429	351	123	440
1992	42	72	331	1,052	177	22	244
1993	93	60	337	645	119	8	509
1994	58	70	365	720	233	14	647
1995	73	197	113	609	39	9	1,166
1996	149	104	185	615	36	35	1,138
1997	193	46	186	692	88	23	1,238
1998	131	89	148	867	41	33	690
1999	51	71	175	800	27	140	905
2000	194	146	222	786	86	125	1,088
2001	275	117	492	456	64	281	1,172
2002	.	140	558	209	.	.	1,978
2003	.	156	625	309	.	.	1,804

Table 12 (continued). Japan's annual albacore catches (by FAO fishing area), 1953-2003 (metric tons).

Year	Pacific Ocean						Total All areas
	(77)	(67)	(61)	(87)	(81)	(71)	
1953	.	.	50,906	.	.	.	52,000
1954	.	.	53,166	.	.	.	55,900
1955	.	.	45,341	.	.	.	48,400
1956	.	.	60,725	.	.	.	65,800
1957	.	.	72,238	.	.	.	77,700
1958	.	.	54,915	.	.	.	63,200
1959	.	.	54,190	.	.	.	68,200
1960	.	.	68,238	.	.	.	89,100
1961	.	.	63,259	.	.	.	87,800
1962	.	.	64,851	.	.	.	104,600
1963	.	.	73,241	.	.	.	115,500
1964	3,800	.	40,100	1,000	16,800	.	116,500
1965	2,800	.	53,300	300	14,100	.	127,300
1966	2,200	.	45,100	1,100	18,500	.	106,100
1967	1,200	.	55,200	400	13,500	.	98,000
1968	2,700	.	36,500	300	5,500	.	70,400
1969	2,600	.	49,400	600	3,000	.	76,800
1970	2,900	-**	32,200	400	2,000	8,500	63,700
1971	2,300	-	62,700	300	3,100	1,600	83,000
1972	3,800	-	69,700	200	1,800	2,000	83,901
1973	4,900	-	82,000	400	1,500	2,300	95,000
1974	3,194	1	63,756	277	1,178	22,416	95,914
1975	1,744	3	47,421	155	584	14,462	67,351
1976	4,809	288	90,444	200	845	9,424	108,706
1977	4,489	-	41,476	786	375	4,650	53,184
1978	4,934	175	69,619	748	689	6,755	84,079
1979	5,821	38	57,642	255	730	1,056	67,341
1980	5,582	-	58,215	288	1,328	3,161	70,632
1981	7,198	196	47,977	378	1,210	4,901	65,837
1982	6,770	713	48,356	113	1,771	7,181	67,640
1983	7,384	515	34,173	421	1,799	4,252	51,627
1984	8,294	1,825	43,782	618	1,592	3,248	62,164
1985	5,670	2,958	30,846	247	2,139	8,282	54,137
1986	5,821	1,633	25,897	369	2,219	9,772	49,927
1987	6,168	1,060	26,912	634	2,886	9,289	50,333
1988	9,201	1,963	22,954	588	3,128	4,824	45,243
1989	5,589	1,802	24,051	318	5,859	6,542	46,616
1990	5,274	515	25,188	646	4,974	7,021	46,105
1991	6,700	561	20,862	857	1,900	4,352	37,664
1992	6,526	394	28,336	681	2,144	8,405	49,246
1993	6,450	-	33,011	1,658	2,759	12,173	58,266
1994	4,839	-	40,098	1,695	2,167	19,144	70,890
1995	5,098	-	33,857	960	2,307	17,490	62,543
1996	4,401	-	48,364	613	2,267	2,124	61,059
1997	4,717	-	66,487	430	2,876	5,027	83,592
1998	5,187	-	54,206	473	3,287	6,481	73,756
1999	4,506	-	85,662	457	1,565	3,527	99,027
2000	2,372	-	45,852	354	1,052	7,926	61,249
2001	3,285	-	49,507	864	2,415	8,678	69,196
2002	3,285	-	49,507	864	2,415	8,678	68,888
2003	3,285	-	49,507	864	2,415	8,678	68,254

* Numbers refer to FAO fishing area (see Figure 2)

.** not available

-*** zero

Source: FAO 2005

IMPORTS

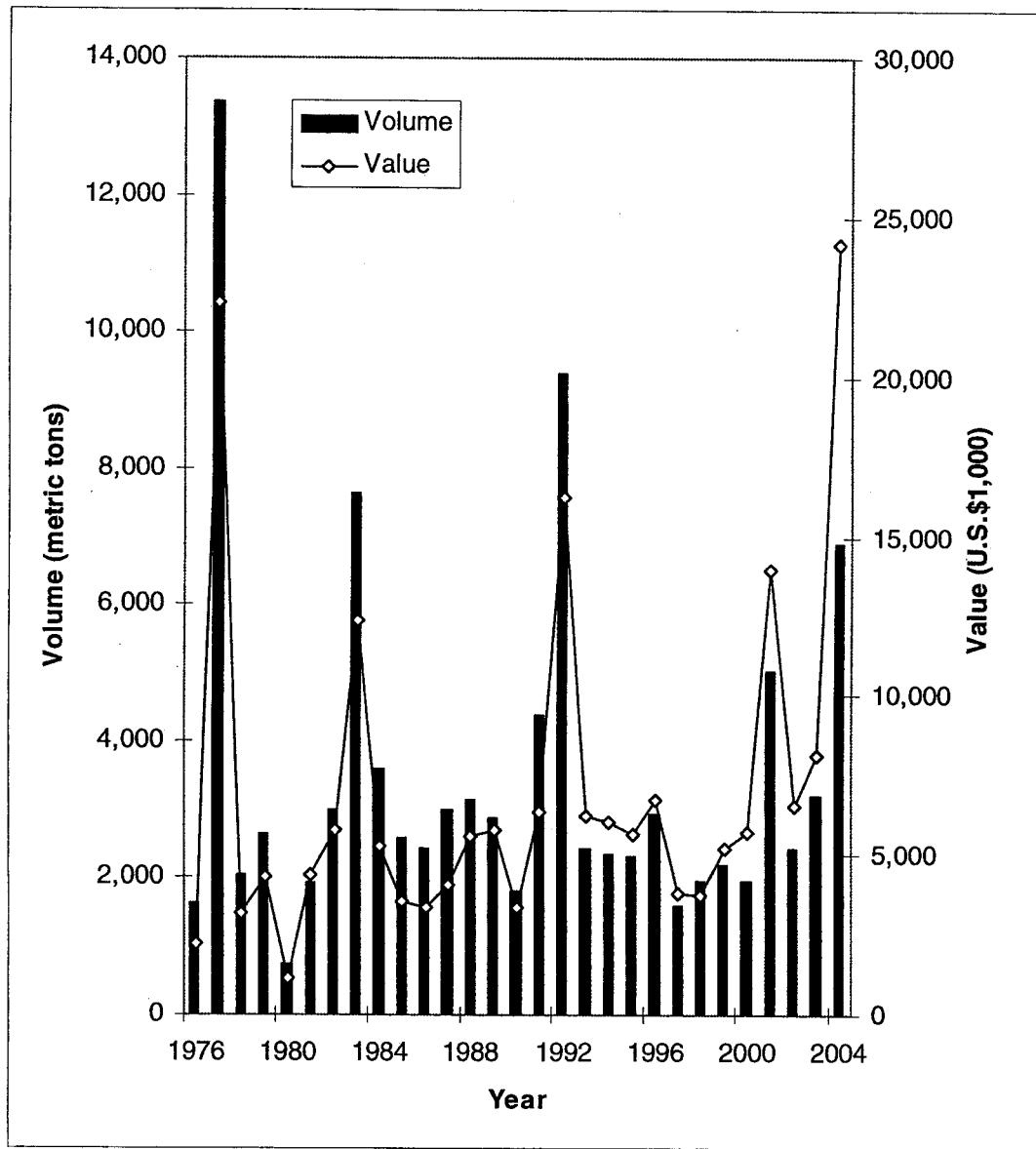
Japan liberalized the import of tuna in 1961, making it free from import quota restrictions (Suisan Sha 1968). Tuna imports to Japan have since steadily increased and the trend has been accentuated in recent years. From 1981 to 2004, imports of tuna into Japan increased more than four times in volume and eight times in value (Japan Fish Traders Association 1982 and 2005). Much of this increase was due to good demand, decreased domestic catches, and strong yen (Appendix).

Japan's imports of fresh and frozen albacore in 2004 were 6,901 mt valued at about \$24 million, an increase of more than two times in volume and three times in value over 2003 imports (Figure 4). Frozen products dominated, representing as much as 94 percent in volume and 91 percent in value (Tables 13 and 14). Fresh products accounted for 6 percent in volume and 9 percent in value.

Imports of frozen albacore rose from 1,669 mt in 2002 to 6,494 mt in 2004. In 2004, Canada replaced the Republic of Korea as the leading supplier of frozen albacore to Japan with exports of 2,916 mt (Table 13). Significant quantities of frozen albacore were also shipped from the United States at 1,897 mt. Supplies of frozen albacore from Taiwan to Japan have declined since 2002.

Imports of fresh albacore were minor. Fiji has remained the major source for air-shipped fresh albacore since 1991 (Table 14 and Japan Marine Products Importers Association 1992-2001). Supplies of fresh albacore from Fiji to Japan have declined since 2003, while shipments of this products from Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands have increased sharply.

Albacore products imported into Japan are subject to tariffs. As Japan and the United States are signatories to the World Trade Organization (WTO), WTO tariffs apply to U.S. exports of albacore products. The current tariff for fresh or frozen albacore products is 3.5 percent, calculated as percentage of cost, insurance, and freight (CIF) value.



Source: Japan Fish Traders Association 1977-2005

Figure 4. Japan's imports of fresh and frozen albacore, 1976-2004.

Table 13. Japan's frozen albacore imports by country, 2001-2004

Country of Origin	2001	2002	2003	2004	2001	2002	2003	2004
	Metric tons				U.S. \$1,000			
Canada	1,152	206	837	2,916	3,681	524	2,342	11,594
U.S.A.	842	116	380	1,897	2,209	210	891	6,798
Korea, Rep. of	1,435	1,028	1,206	1,372	2,844	1,515	2,221	2,970
Singapore	- *	-	-	101	-	-	-	245
Belize	-	-	-	83	-	-	-	200
Ecuador	56	68	28	49	108	131	59	125
Panama	1	-	-	16	3	-	-	38
Guam	4	4	18	14	5	4	23	14
Brazil	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	25
Vanuatu	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	21
Taiwan	799	122	124	8	1,961	215	191	15
Philippine	22	3	26	5	34	4	33	7
Viet Nam	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Namibia	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Fiji	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
China	36	95	97	-	69	106	135	-
Thailand	9	-	84	-	17	-	143	-
Indonesia	42	1	6	-	82	2	6	-
Iceland	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-
Spain	-	13	-	-	-	27	-	-
Bolivia	-	7	-	-	-	11	-	-
Portugal	-	4	-	-	-	6	-	-
Libya	-	2	-	-	-	7	-	-
South Africa	59	-	-	-	136	-	-	-
New Zealand	36	-	-	-	79	-	-	-
Cambodia	4	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
Sierra Leone	4	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
St. Pierre and Miquelon	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Canary Islands	10	-	-	-	36	-	-	-
Total	4,512	1,669	2,804	6,494	11,279	2,763	6,047	22,061

-* zero imports

Total may not add due to rounding

Source: Japan Fish Traders Association 2002-2005

Table 14. Japan's fresh albacore imports by country, 2001-2004

Country of Origin	2001	2002	2003	2004	2001	2002	2003	2004
	Metric tons				U.S. \$1,000			
Fiji	250	377	206	191	1,234	1,882	1,024	1,131
Papua New Guinea	0*	1	21	83	2	7	86	374
Solomon Islands	-**	-	2	78	-	-	8	275
Australia	47	49	36	19	287	295	263	132
New Zealand	1	-	9	10	9	-	61	74
New Caledonia	215	270	79	8	1,124	1,305	412	42
Indonesia	-	1	-	7	-	8-	-	56
Korea, Rep. of	8	-	-	6	15	-	-	6
Tonga	-	6	2	3	-	59	9	15
Cook Islands	-	25	36	3	-	127	187	19
Samoa	-	1	2	-	-	7	8	-
American Samoa	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	-
French Polynesia	4	13	-	-	19	80	-	-
U.S.A.	-	1	-	-	-	11	-	-
Portugal	-	0	-	-	-	3	-	-
Guam	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Micronesia	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Palau	0	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Total	527	746	393	407	2,696	3,783	2,062	2,124

0* more than zero but less than 500 kg.

-** zero imports

Total may not add due to rounding

Source: Japan Fish Traders Association 2002-2005

EXPORTS

Japanese exports of albacore products from 1998 through 2004 are summarized in Table 15. In 2004, Japan exported about 29,000 mt, amounting to \$62 million worth of fresh and frozen albacore products, an increase of 85 percent in volume and 129 percent in value from the 2003 level. Much of the increase was due to increased exports of frozen albacore. This was made possible by the large increase in catch of summer albacore in 2004 (Suisan Keizai Shinbun Sha 2005).

Japanese exports of frozen albacore in 2004 increased 12 percent in volume and 9 percent in value over 2003 (Table 16). Much of the frozen albacore is sent to canneries in Thailand, American Samoa, and elsewhere. Thailand and American Samoa were the dominant markets for frozen albacore. These two nations took as much as 90 percent both in volume and in value of frozen albacore in 2004. Other important buyers for Japanese frozen albacore in 2004 were South Africa, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

Japanese exports of fresh albacore are minor (Table 17). Guam was the major buyer of fresh albacore in 2004.

Table 15. Japan's exports of fresh and frozen albacore, 1998-2004.

Year	Volume (metric tons)			Value (million yen)			U.S.\$1,000	
	Frozen	Fresh	Total	Frozen	Fresh	Total	Total	
1998	26,913	215	27,128	6,759	82	6,841	52,082	
1999	27,195	54	27,249	6,694	24	6,718	58,702	
2000	11,942	141	12,083	2,898	63	2,960	27,555	
2001	5,288	14	5,302	1,566	7	1,572	13,004	
2002	16,760	83	16,843	3,336	18	3,354	26,686	
2003	15,357	84	15,440	3,139	29	3,168	27,207	
2004	28,538	34	28,572	6,721	11	6,733	62,185	

Source: Ministry of Finance 1999-2005.

**Table 16. Japan's exports of frozen albacore by country,
2002-2004.**

Country	Volume (metric tons)			Value (million yen)		
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
Thailand	14,608	13,847	14,065	2,935	2,846	3,226
American Samoa	183	139	11,605	38	29	2,853
South Africa	485	619	886	76	109	165
Malaysia	554	275	839	109	55	197
Indonesia	166	50	478	36	10	105
Spain	25	64	211	5	13	43
China	25	69	117	9	26	55
Canada	- *	-	81	-	-	23
Korea, Rep. of	273	-	75	43	-	17
Viet Nam	-	-	75	-	-	17
Mauritius	117	161	63	18	28	12
Canary Islands	130	31	38	23	5	7
Peru	-	6	8	-	1	1
U.S.A.	-	69	-	-	12	-
Philippines	-	24	-	-	5	-
France	168	-	-	37	-	-
Trinidad	25	-	-	5	-	-
Hong Kong	0 **	-	-	2	-	-
Total	16,760	15,357	28,538	3,336	3,139	6,721

-* zero imports

0** more than zero but less than 500 kg.

Total may not add due to rounding

Source: Japan Fish Traders Association 2003-2005

**Table 17. Japan's exports of fresh albacore by country,
2002-2004.**

Country	Volume (metric tons)			Value (million yen)		
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
Guam	10	83	34	4	29	11
Hong Kong	0 *	0	0	0	0	0
Thailand	73	- **	-	13	-	-
Total	83	84	34	18	29	11

0* more than zero but less than half the unit used

-** zero imports

Total may not add due to rounding

Source: Japan Fish Traders Association 2002-2005

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

Table 18 shows Japan's monthly and annual inventories of frozen albacore between 1990 and 2005. Annual average inventory for 2004 was lower than 1994-2003 average due to poor Japanese catches. Monthly inventories from September 2004 to June 2005 were also lower than the level in the same period a year earlier.

Table 18. Monthly and annual cold storage holdings of frozen albacore, 1990-2005 (metric tons).

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July
1990	8,884	8,640	8,723	10,788	9,542	10,232	12,339
1991	9,679	9,044	8,695	10,353	9,223	8,643	7,280
1992	5,781	5,142	5,176	4,441	3,051	4,327	10,456
1993	9,629	8,996	10,016	9,688	7,671	7,752	11,406
1994	7,820	7,459	8,513	8,222	6,431	7,161	10,114
1995	9,607	8,634	9,617	7,290	5,774	5,304	8,941
1996	10,440	9,793	9,096	7,409	5,389	7,539	12,474
1997	8,564	8,181	7,505	6,011	4,715	9,620	10,955
1998	11,450	10,386	10,668	9,806	7,833	9,502	9,521
1999	9,723	8,733	8,163	6,413	8,664	11,615	14,576
2000	19,789	17,800	15,661	13,152	10,885	9,647	11,496
2001	7,675	6,976	6,153	4,515	3,542	4,839	7,475
2002	17,486	16,948	16,438	14,638	13,451	18,619	22,571
2003	24,288	21,293	19,601	16,558	13,334	10,674	10,995
2004	13,014	11,608	10,680	8,488	9,990	13,407	13,994
2005	9,651	8,578	7,588	6,662	5,901	6,299	
Average (1994-2003)	12,684	11,620	11,142	9,401	8,002	9,452	11,912

Year	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total (Jan.-Dec.)	Annual average
1990	12,659	12,186	12,451	10,783	10,604	127,831	10,653
1991	7,268	7,238	7,361	6,189	7,445	98,418	8,202
1992	12,306	13,175	12,672	11,090	11,162	98,779	8,232
1993	12,482	11,427	9,728	9,304	8,492	116,591	9,716
1994	13,036	13,744	12,848	11,872	10,645	117,865	9,822
1995	10,494	12,054	10,696	11,112	10,642	110,165	9,180
1996	12,814	13,687	11,362	10,702	9,953	120,658	10,055
1997	11,585	12,483	13,419	13,699	12,497	119,234	9,936
1998	11,602	13,220	13,357	12,146	11,089	130,580	10,882
1999	15,557	20,876	21,095	22,637	21,293	169,345	14,112
2000	12,074	12,127	11,528	9,783	8,747	152,689	12,724
2001	12,729	14,008	15,188	14,560	13,707	111,367	9,281
2002	28,184	32,158	31,339	28,749	26,111	266,692	22,224
2003	12,075	13,395	14,701	17,235	14,412	188,561	15,713
2004	12,494	11,138	10,764	10,640	10,501	136,718	11,393
Average (1994-2003)	14,015	15,775	15,553	15,250	13,910	148,716	12,393

Sources: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 1992-2005
Suisan Tsushin Sha 2004-2005

SUPPLY

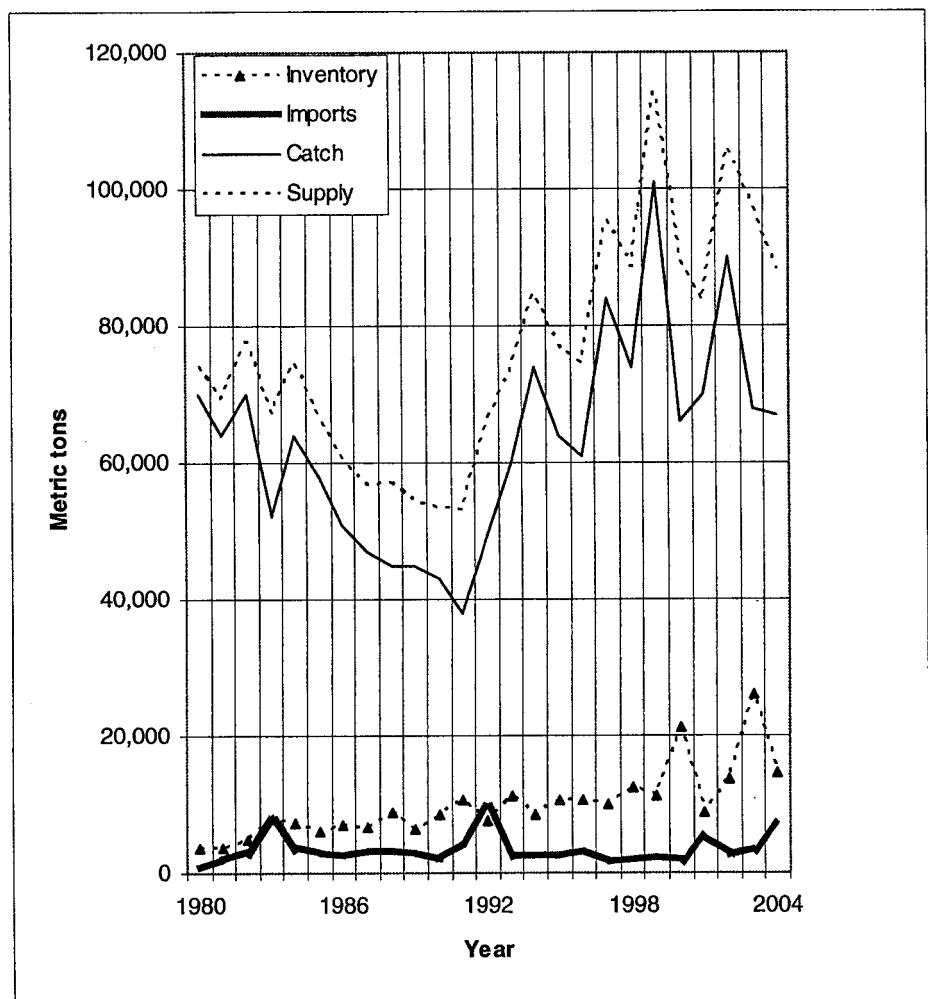
The annual supply of albacore for the Japanese market and for export is comprised of the cold storage inventory of January 1, plus that year's domestic catches and imports. The annual supply reached a record high in 1999 due mainly to sharply increased domestic catches (Table 19 and Figure 5).

Between 1980 and 2004, annual supply of albacore ranged between 53,000 and 114,000 mt, averaging 76,000 mt. During this period catches averaged 63,000 mt (about 83 percent of the total supply). The January inventory averaged 10,000 mt (13 percent), and imports 3,000 mt (4 percent) but the latter was higher (8 percent) in 2004, when the catch was lower.

Table 19. Japan's annual supply of albacore, 1980-2004.

Year	Inventory (January 1)	Imports	Catch	Supply	Percent of Supply		
					Inventory	Import	Catch
1980	3,500	730	70,000	74,230	5%	1%	94%
1981	3,495	1,910	64,000	69,405	5%	3%	92%
1982	4,911	2,997	70,000	77,908	6%	4%	90%
1983	7,739	7,638	52,000	67,377	11%	11%	77%
1984	7,164	3,575	64,000	74,739	10%	5%	86%
1985	5,968	2,583	58,000	66,551	9%	4%	87%
1986	7,064	2,433	51,000	60,497	12%	4%	84%
1987	6,561	2,992	47,000	56,553	12%	5%	83%
1988	8,691	3,135	45,000	56,826	15%	6%	79%
1989	6,420	2,867	45,000	54,287	12%	5%	83%
1990	8,557	1,808	43,000	53,365	16%	3%	81%
1991	10,604	4,375	38,000	52,979	20%	8%	72%
1992	7,445	9,397	49,000	65,842	11%	14%	74%
1993	11,162	2,438	60,000	73,600	15%	3%	82%
1994	8,492	2,324	74,000	84,816	10%	3%	87%
1995	10,645	2,305	64,000	76,950	14%	3%	83%
1996	10,642	2,941	61,000	74,583	14%	4%	82%
1997	9,953	1,600	84,000	95,553	10%	2%	88%
1998	12,497	1,953	74,000	88,450	14%	2%	84%
1999	11,089	2,187	101,000	114,276	10%	2%	88%
2000	21,293	1,968	66,000	89,261	24%	2%	74%
2001	8,747	5,039	70,000	83,786	10%	6%	84%
2002	13,707	2,415	90,000	106,122	13%	2%	85%
2003	26,111	3,197	68,000	97,308	27%	3%	70%
2004	14,412	6,901	67,000	88,313	16%	8%	76%
Average (1980-2004)	9,875	3,268	63,000	76,143	13%	4%	83%

Sources: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 1982-2005
Suisan Tsushin Sha 2004-2005
Japan Fish Traders Association 1981-2005



Sources: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 1982-2005
 Suisan Tsushin Sha 2004-2005
 Japan Fish Traders Association 1981-2005

**Figure 5. Japan's annual supply of albacore, 1980-2004
 (metric tons).**

DEMAND

Annual demand for albacore for both the Japanese market and for export (annual supply minus the cold storage inventory on December 31) was 77,812 mt in 2004, a decrease of 6 percent compared with 2003 (Table 20). Between 1998 and 2004, annual demand for albacore ranged between 70,000 and 93,000 mt, averaging 80,000 mt per year.

Table 20. Japan's demand for albacore and apparent consumption, 1998-2004 (metric tons).

Year	Supply	Inventory (December 31)	Demand	Export	Consumption
1998	88,450	11,089	77,361	27,128	50,233
1999	114,276	21,293	92,983	27,249	65,734
2000	89,261	8,747	80,514	12,083	68,431
2001	83,786	13,707	70,079	5,302	64,777
2002	106,122	26,111	80,011	16,843	63,168
2003	97,308	14,412	82,896	15,440	67,456
2004	88,313	10,501	77,812	28,572	49,240

Sources: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 2000-2005
Suisan Tsushin Sha 2004-2005
Japan Fish Traders Association 1999-2005

CONSUMPTION

Albacore is mainly used for canned products, but small quantities are sold in the form of loins at supermarkets for home consumption as steak and "teriyaki" (marinated in soy sauce and other flavorings, then grilled or broiled). Some high quality albacore is also increasingly used for sushi and "sashimi" (which typically consists of thin slices of raw seafood) served with soy sauce and condiments. Sashimi is eaten both at home and in restaurants.

The annual Japanese apparent consumption of albacore (demand minus exports) was 49,000 mt in 2004, a decrease of 27 percent compared with 2003 (Table 20). Between 1998 and 2004, annual apparent consumption of albacore averaged about 61,000 mt per year.

WHOLESALE MARKETS

Albacore is usually sold through auctions at consumer wholesale markets located in consumption areas, and at production wholesale markets located at Japanese ports of landing. Albacore is also sold directly to processors and representatives of supermarket chains. The largest consumer wholesale fish market is the Tokyo Central Wholesale Market. In 2004, this market handled about 676,000 mt of seafood products valued at about \$5.1 billion (Tokyo Metropolitan Government 2004). It therefore plays an important role in providing indicators about supply and demand of fishery products in Japan. Wholesale prices at the Tokyo Central Wholesale Market generally serve as price indices for fishery products throughout the world.

Wholesale prices for albacore vary widely, depending on quality, origin, and supply and demand, as well as other factors.

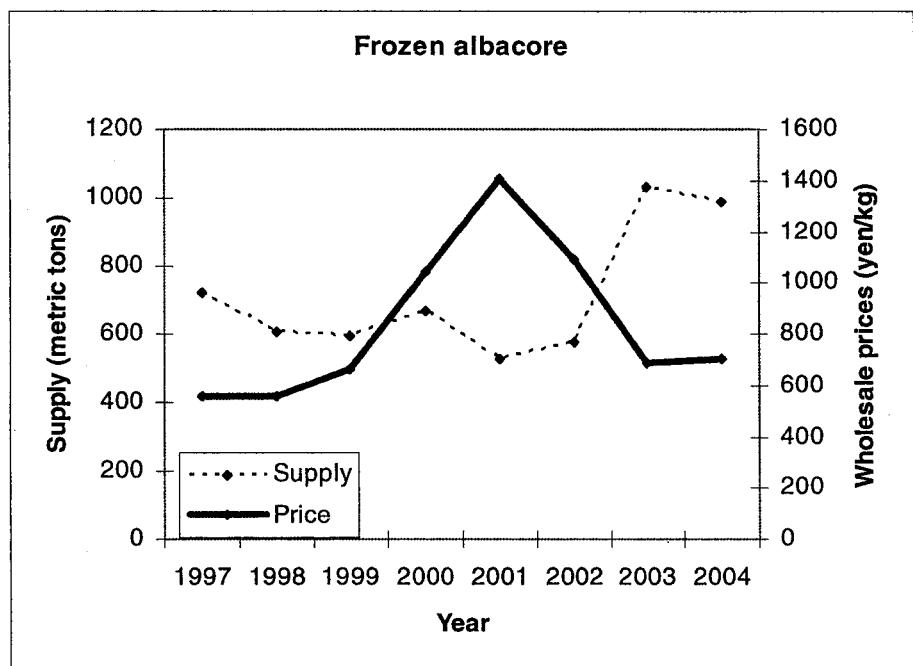
Wholesale Prices at 10 Major Central Wholesale Markets

Table 21 and Figures 6 show annual average wholesale prices and supply of frozen albacore at 10 major central wholesale markets in Japan between 1997 and 2004. The wholesale prices at major markets were generally dictated by the supply: the lower the supplies, the higher the prices. As shown in Table 21 and Figures 6, the highest price of frozen albacore (1,410 yen/kg) was realized in 2001 when supply was at the lowest at 530 mt.

Table 21. Annual average wholesale prices and supply of frozen albacore at ten major central wholesale markets in Japan, 1997-2004.

Year	Supply (metric ton)	Wholesale price (yen/kg)
1997	719	561
1998	604	555
1999	592	659
2000	665	1,041
2001	530	1,410
2002	575	1,091
2003	1,028	689
2004	987	703

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
1999-2005



Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
1999-2005

Figure 6. Annual average wholesale prices and supply of albacore at ten major central wholesale markets in Japan, 1997-2004.

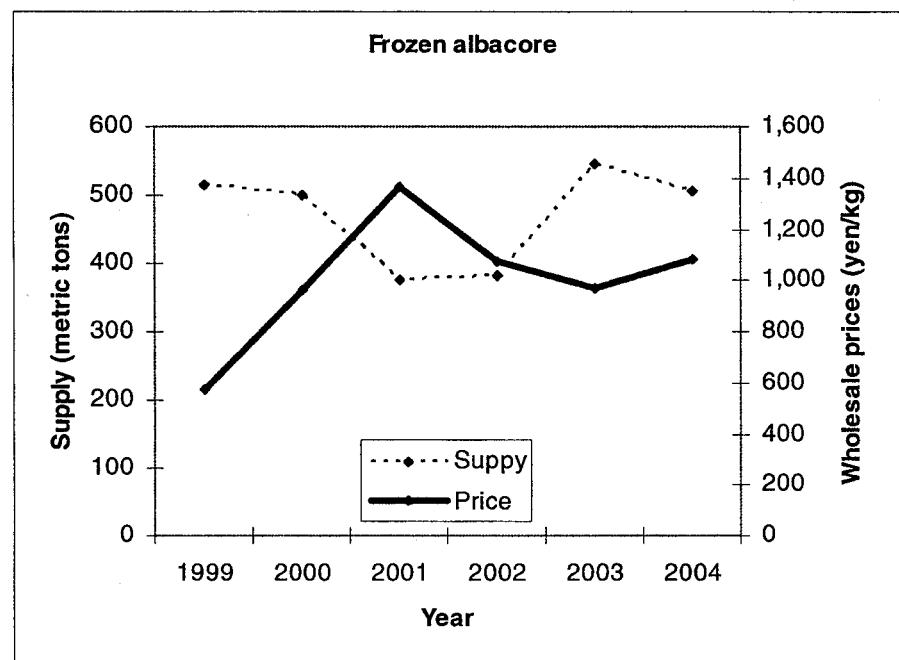
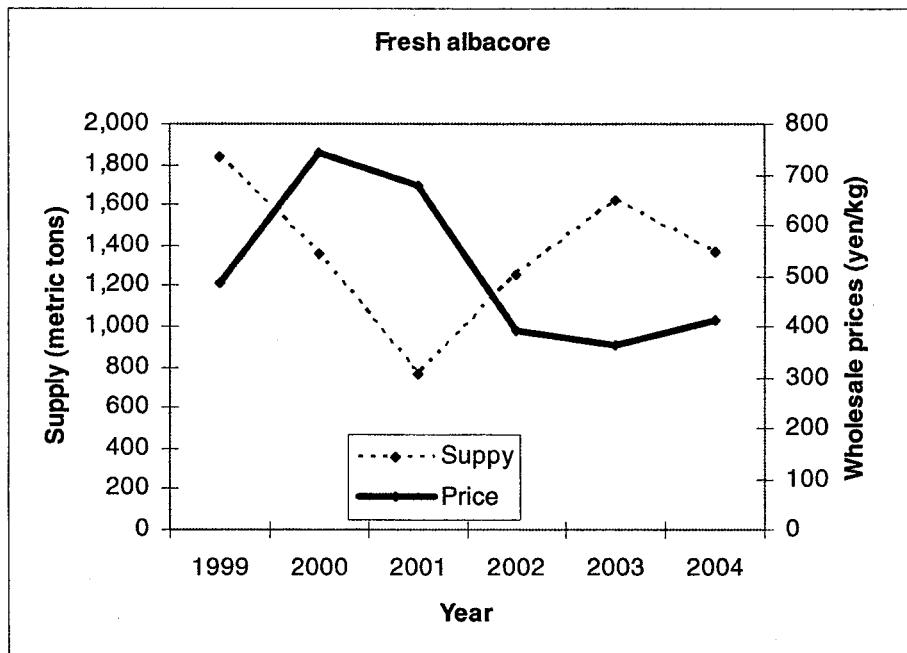
Wholesale Prices at the Tokyo Central Wholesale Market

Table 22 and Figure 7 show annual average wholesale prices and supply of albacore at the Tokyo Central Wholesale Market between 1999 and 2004. Wholesale prices for both fresh and frozen albacore showed fluctuations which were influenced mainly by volume of supply, usually, the lower the supply, the higher the price, and vice versa.

Table 22. Annual average wholesale prices and supply of albacore at Tokyo Central Wholesale Market, 1999-2004.

Year	Fresh		Frozen	
	Supply (metric ton)	Price (yen/kg)	Supply (metric ton)	Price (yen/kg)
1999	1,835	485	514	573
2000	1,354	744	500	958
2001	765	679	377	1,368
2002	1,254	393	381	1,077
2003	1,619	362	546	972
2004	1,367	414	506	1,085

Source: Tokyo Metropolitan Government 2000-2005



Source: Tokyo Metropolitan Government 2000-2005

Figure 7. Annual average wholesale prices and supply of albacore at Tokyo Central Wholesale Market, 1999-2004.

Direct Sales to the Tokyo Central Wholesale Market

United States exporters can export fresh albacore on consignment basis to auction houses at the Tokyo Central Wholesale Market for sale through auctions. Auction houses do not receive frozen albacore directly from overseas. Auction houses at Tokyo Central Wholesale Market are authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery to handle fish through auctions at the market. Auction houses at the Tokyo Central Wholesale Market are listed at:

http://www.tsukiji-market.or.jp/youkoso/oroshi7/orosi7_e.htm

Other Wholesale Markets

While the Tokyo Central Wholesale Market is the largest consumer wholesale market in Japan, other wholesale markets also handle substantial amounts of fish and prices for the same commodities may vary considerably from market to market. Prices at the Tokyo Central Wholesale Market may not always be the most profitable for exporters. For example, in 2002, highest price for frozen albacore occurred at Yokohama Central Wholesale Market (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 2005).

Direct Sales to Supermarket Chains

Huge national chains of supermarkets have become significant factors in the Japanese economy. Many of these supermarkets maintain independent supply systems dealing directly with producers, including those located overseas. Since these retailers are powerful enough to use their own independent suppliers, they represent additional potential buyers other than wholesale markets.

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Appendix. Monthly and annual average exchange rate applied to Japanese imports, 1981-2005 (yen/U.S. \$1.00).

Month	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
January	203.99	221.36	232.89	233.83	252.04	202.07	159.01
February	203.44	231.15	237.03	233.98	256.66	193.53	152.70
March	207.80	237.03	235.99	228.79	260.53	180.21	153.47
April	211.99	246.01	238.61	225.10	254.49	178.62	146.97
May	217.18	237.25	235.43	227.48	251.36	167.08	139.91
June	223.89	243.66	238.48	231.56	250.26	169.29	142.58
July	226.55	256.07	239.93	238.69	246.22	163.17	147.81
August	236.35	257.18	242.70	243.69	237.92	155.04	150.83
September	230.26	258.60	244.80	243.02	239.20	154.66	143.02
October	229.15	268.14	236.15	246.68	221.43	154.23	144.59
November.	230.56	272.81	234.22	244.08	209.32	160.34	138.52
December	218.15	250.33	234.81	246.07	202.60	162.73	132.65
Jan.-Dec.	219.94	248.30	237.59	236.91	240.17	170.08	146.01

Month	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
January	126.01	125.64	144.36	135.27	126.21	124.66	111.79
February	128.57	128.49	144.93	130.97	125.47	123.98	109.23
March	128.72	128.00	148.61	134.02	130.46	117.95	105.04
April	125.64	132.12	156.99	137.68	133.37	115.05	104.47
May	124.76	133.78	157.09	137.71	132.77	110.81	103.07
June	125.23	143.06	159.28	139.05	128.15	107.97	104.29
July	131.40	141.60	151.95	138.85	125.61	108.16	99.55
August	133.12	140.29	148.90	137.00	126.99	105.38	99.57
September	134.21	145.10	142.96	136.24	124.36	104.37	99.25
October	132.58	142.58	133.82	131.72	121.03	105.79	98.97
November	125.36	142.67	128.31	130.47	122.71	107.80	97.41
December	122.21	143.83	130.86	129.14	124.11	108.35	99.22
Jan.-Dec.	128.15	137.26	145.67	134.84	126.77	111.69	102.66

**Appendix (continued). Monthly and annual average exchange rate applied to Japanese imports, 1981-2005
(yen/U.S. \$1.00).**

Month	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
January	100.25	104.49	115.60	130.98	114.09	103.76	115.37
February	99.19	106.38	121.26	125.90	115.02	107.05	116.56
March	94.49	105.32	122.38	127.35	119.88	108.29	118.10
April	86.99	107.07	124.29	130.84	119.55	106.02	123.97
May	83.75	106.02	123.99	132.33	120.21	107.38	122.56
June	84.96	108.19	114.98	138.65	121.52	108.36	120.93
July	85.46	109.55	114.08	140.47	121.56	106.34	124.40
August	90.73	107.84	117.18	143.44	115.95	108.70	123.50
September	98.48	108.78	119.44	138.58	110.21	106.71	119.97
October	100.88	110.99	121.18	129.32	106.34	107.88	119.40
November	101.56	112.86	122.27	118.14	105.21	108.14	121.73
December	101.51	112.70	127.90	120.26	103.73	110.67	124.35
Jan.-Dec.	94.02	108.35	120.38	131.36	114.44	107.44	120.90

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	131.11	119.60	106.93	103.7
February	133.32	119.30	106.03	103.8
March	132.04	118.06	108.98	104.8
April	132.09	119.62	106.25	107.1
May	128.74	118.54	110.39	106.0
June	124.84	117.74	111.10	107.9
July	120.17	118.31	108.75	
August	118.39	119.35	110.45	
September	118.93	117.32	109.72	
October	123.23	111.49	110.29	
November	122.40	109.18	106.66	
December	122.83	108.71	103.64	
Jan.-Dec.	125.67	116.44	108.27	

Sources: Japan Fish Traders Association 1982-2005